

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Oberland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 2nd October, at Luh Hoh, to Dr. and Mrs. GEO. F. DE VOL, a son, CHARLES EDWARD.

On the 9th October, at "Dove's Nest," 102 River Valley Road, Singapore, the wife of S. DONNENBERG, of a son.

On the 12th October, at 6, Pootung Terrace Pootung, Shanghai, the wife of J. D. STRANG, of a son.

On the 12th October, at Shanghai, the wife of GEO. JAS. LINCOLN NATHURTON, of a daughter.

On the 19th October, at 2, College Gardens, to the Rev. G. A. and Mrs. BUNBURY, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 15th September, at Cahirarry Church, by the Rev. Canon Luther, ARTHUR WINBOLT BREWIN, of the Hongkong Civil Service, to ADA MARY, daughter of the late JOHN RUSSELL and of Mrs. RUSSELL, Glenview, Limerick.

DEATHS.

On the 10th October, at Yokohama, FRANCISCO DE ESPIRITO SANTO DA R. SA, aged 64 years.

On the 15th October, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, HERMANN FRESZ, aged 22 years.

On the 16th October, the Reverend HERBERT CECIL HODGES, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, for seventeen years Cathedral Chaplain of Shanghai, aged 56 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 18th ult. arrived per M.M. steamer Yarra on the 20th inst. (32 days) and the English Mail of the 24th ult. by the P. & O. steamer Bengal on the 22nd inst. (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported via London that the conference between the Russian and Japanese authorities has been futile.

Admiral Fongue Jonquiere has been nominated to command a division of the French naval squadron in the Far East.

The Japanese residents at Wiju, alarmed at the movements of Russian soldiers there, were last week sending away their wives and children.

The Morning Post learns "from trustworthy quarters" that Japan has landed troops in Pingyang outlet. Nothing is known of this from other sources.

Both Russia and Japan are buying heavy consignments of Welsh steam coal for Vladivostok, Port Arthur, Nagasaki, and Yokohama, the latest deliverable in two months.

Some high Chinese officials are proposing to memorialise the Throne in favour of the establishment of a Naval Board which shall have control of all matters relating to the navy and its re-organisation.

The authorities at Washing on have upheld the decision of Mr. Morgan Shuster, Collector of Customs at Manila in the Allen exclusion case. This apparently means that Mr. Allen must leave Manila!

A special commission under the presidency of the Tsar has been formed at St. Petersburg to consider affairs in the Far East and to discuss financial proposals and measures for the development of trade and industry.

Colonel Villiers Hatton, C.B., succeeds Major-General Sir William Gascoigne in the Hongkong Command. Major-General Sir William J. Gascoigne's term of employment expires officially on the 17th prox.

The New York World states that the Navy Board has decided to place forty-nine warships on the Asiatic Station in the event of a war between Russia and Japan. The ships have all been designated to their respective positions.

Baron Kodama, succeeds General Tamura, deceased, as vice-chief of the Japanese headquarters staff, resigning the portfolio of Home Affairs, which is taken by the Premier. Baron Kodama's appointment is regarded with universal satisfaction at this critical period.

Admiral Alexioff is reported to be threatening punishment to anyone spreading rumours of impending war between Japan and Russia.

They are ahead of us in Peking, it seems, for already the British residents there have held a meeting to consider the means of celebrating the birthday of King Edward VII. It was decided to have sports for the soldiers, and a grand ball for the other residents on the 9th prox.

The N.-C. Daily News representative telegraphs under date Tokyo, 14th October:—Negotiations are proceeding at Tokyo, and there is no present reason to apprehend an unpeaceful issue. The alleged Russian fort at Yong-ampho is merely, it is now stated, a signal station to enable communication to be maintained with Antung.

The vessels now composing the Japanese standing squadron are:—The battleships Asahi, Hatsuse, Mikasa, Shikishima, Fuzi, Yashima; the armoured cruisers Iwate, Idzumo, Yakumo, Asama, Adzuma, Tokiwa, Kasagi Chitose; the cruisers Yoshino, Naniwa, Takachiho, Chiyoda, Akitsushima, Saiyen; the despatch-boat Miyako; the gunboats Oshima, Uri, and Chokai, and 14 destroyers, as well as about 40 torpedo-boats, with a total strength of about 186,000 tons displacement.

M. Champeaux, the local agent of the Messageries Maritimes, informs us that the M.M. steamer Sydney, with Marseilles mails of the 4th October, has unfortunately broken her screw-shaft on her way to Aden. The mails and cabin passengers have been transferred to the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer Britannia, which left Aden on the 19th instant. Other passengers and cargo will follow by the M.M. s.s. Himalaya, which is expected to sail from Aden on or about October 25th.

The Times correspondent at Peking wired that on the occasion of a Ball at the British Legation at Peking on Tuesday the 13th inst., an attempt was made to explode a magazine containing explosives and ammunition for the defence of the Legation. Wires were laid to connect with an electric battery, but for some reason the connection was not perfect. The British Legation at Peking formally denies the story, and Reuter's Agency at Peking states that there has been no attempt to blow up the British Legation, but a robbery of ordnance stores was effected presumably by Chinese servants who left an electric apparatus outside the Magazine.

At last we have the explanation of the telegram which we published on the 13th inst. from our Singapore correspondent, stating that a sea-serpent had been seen in Singapore Harbour. It appears from the papers that one of the Marine Police officers who was patrolling the harbour in the police launch on the night of the 10th inst. alleges that he saw something in the water which he declares very closely resembled what the sea serpent is supposed to be. The monster was seen at Tanjong Pagar near the old hulks. It could not be seen plainly, owing to the dim light, but what appeared to be the head, which was black, was raised about two feet above the water. It disappeared on the approach of the launch.

RUMOURED ATTEMPTED OUTRAGE AT PEKING.

(Daily Press, 19th October)

The abominable outrage announced by REUTER as having been attempted at Peking will rouse general indignation and renew distrust of the Chinese authorities. According to REUTER's message, an attempt was made at the British Legation on Tuesday, the 13th instant, to explode a magazine containing explosives and ammunition for the defence of the Legation. Wires were laid to connect with an electric battery, but for some reason the connection was not perfect. This was through no fault of the originators of the outrage, however; their will was good to blow up the Legation at a time when most of the members of the various Legations were present enjoying Sir ERNEST SATOW's hospitality. The perpetrators of the outrage had chosen their time well. They knew the Ball was to come off, and they had calculated upon the Ministers and their staffs being much occupied to be able to complete their infamous work without interruption. Had they succeeded, the situation would have been most serious, and the Treaty Powers would have had a fresh bill to settle with China. It is more than sufficiently bad as it is. The attempt failed through a mere technical detail, and the tragedy contemplated has not resulted. We are devoutly thankful that the barbarous action was thus rendered null, but we cannot minimise the fact that the desire for the extermination of the foreigner still exists in the Chinese capital, and opportunity only is needed to give it expression. There have been several warnings lately that the anti-foreign spirit is again dominant, and that the Chinese are only too ready to strike if a safe opening for the blow appears. The desire for murder is still there, just as much as it was before the outbreak in 1900. The difference now consists apparently in the fact that, instead of openly proceeding by force of arms, the Chinese are possessed with a desire to strike in the dark. These movements of the secret assassin are infinitely more to be dreaded than the open attempt of the enemy to strike you down. The outrage will certainly tend to impair the relations between the Manchu Government and the Treaty Powers. How can the latter feel any confidence in a Government that either sanctions or permits such exhibitions of hostility to the representatives of Foreign States? What interest can the Treaty Powers take in a Government that apparently plots to destroy them? The present dynasty is not acceptable to the Chinese people; but has been suffered to continue merely from failure to discover a possible successor. But the patience and endurance of the Powers have already been taxed to breaking point, and it will soon become a moot question whether such a Government is not worse than a number of smaller states ruled by Chinese viceroys. The Chinese plate is so badly cracked that further fracture will inevitably bring about its dissolution into parts and its independent existence as a whole may cease to be expedient. The pressure of Russia on Manchuria is tending in this direction, and the suicidal folly of the Government is likely to accentuate the danger of partitionment.

[Since the above was written we received a message from our Shanghai correspondent contradicting it. But, as on more occasions than one Dr. MORRISON has proved right and the Legation authorities wrong, we cannot yet consider the story disproved and therefore let stand what we have written].

U.S. AND JAPANESE TREATIES WITH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 21st October.)

The Chinese text of the new Commercial Treaty between Japan and China has now been published, and English translations from it have been issued by two newspapers in Shanghai. We do not now quote the full terms of the Treaty, preferring to wait for the authorised English version, giving at present only an abstract in another column. But we wish to draw attention to the most noteworthy points, adding details from the present translations of the Chinese text. The second article provides for the establishment by Japanese steamship owners and companies of a system of bringing vessels over the rapids on the Yangtze River, between Ichang and Chungking, after the consent of the Imperial Maritime Customs. This does not of course give the Japanese a monopoly, and the system is not to be allowed to block the waterway or hinder the passage of native craft on the river or of travellers on the bank. It will be remembered that in Article V. of the MACKAY treaty a similar clause exists, stating that until improvements be carried out (on the waterway between Ichang and Chungking) steamship owners shall be allowed to erect their own hauling appliances, subject to the same conditions as in the Japanese Treaty. The third article provides that Japanese vessels are to be entitled to enter any port, in addition to the Treaty Ports after notifying the Customs. The *Shanghai Mercury* gives the following translation of the Chinese text:—"Japanese inland vessels are allowed to navigate and trade between inland ports after reporting their destination to the Maritime Customs at the Treaty ports according to the regulations stipulated in the special Regulations and its supplement agreed upon by the High Contracting Parties." The clause requires elucidation, which is not at present forthcoming. The seventh article provides for an attempt on the part of China to establish a uniform system of weights and measures, in addition to the uniform coinage promised in the sixth clause as well as in Article II. of the MACKAY treaty, and Article XIII. of the U.S. treaty. The eighth article states that China consents to revise the Inland Navigation Regulations, the reforms being mentioned in an annexe which we have not before us. Article X. of the MACKAY treaty and Article XII. of the U.S. treaty may, however, be compared; it is under the MACKAY treaty that Kongsmoon is being opened. The tenth article is the most novel in the treaty. By it "it is mutually agreed that upon the withdrawal of the foreign troops in Chili, and of all the Legation guards from Peking, China shall at once open Peking as a place of international trade." An annexe to this, translated by the *Shanghai Times*, states that China also stipulated that the foreign settlements must be outside the Inner City, and that the land or buildings owned by natives and required for foreign use shall be leased in the regular way, by paying a fair price; the right of road-making and bridge-building must remain in the hands of China herself, together with the administration thereof; no distinction is to be made between Chinese and foreigners in the Peking settlement, with regard to the obedience both shall yield to the municipal and police regulations; the consent of the Chinese authorities must first be obtained before any municipal or police system can be established in the settlement; and foreign residents who have hitherto lived scattered over Peking shall remove inside the settlement and shall not be allowed to live outside the foreign area.

As there is not the slightest prospect for many years to come (and never under present conditions), of the Powers being willing to withdraw their troops, this portion of Article IX. is not of much practical use. The article also mentions Changsha, Moukden, and Tatungkou as to be opened to trade, the two latter after the ratification of the treaty, and the first named six months after that ratification. An annexe says that Changte (Hunan), Hukao (Kiangsi), Nganking (Anhwei), and Suifu (Szechuen) shall be opened as soon as circumstances allow. The remaining articles do not call for particular attention. It is to be noted that the opening of ports is not made in the Japanese treaty, as was so unwisely done in the MACKAY treaty, to be dependant on conditions practically impossible. Article VIII. of the Anglo-Chinese treaty stands more than ever revealed as a gross blunder.

(Daily Press, 22nd October.)

As we mentioned yesterday, the Japanese Commercial Treaty with China provides for the opening of Moukden, Tatungkou, and Changsha, the Manchurian towns immediately after the exchange of ratifications between the contracting countries and Changsha six months later. By the revised treaty between the United States and China Moukden and Antung are to be opened after ratification of the agreement, Antung having been substituted for Tatungkou. Thus the opening of four new treaty "ports" is promised by China, three in Manchuria and one in Hunan, in addition to Kongsmoon in Kwangtung, which is opened by the MACKAY treaty. Leaving aside for the moment the question of the effect of opening towns in Manchuria, we find that Japan and the United States appear to have made a better bargain than we have, though we were the first in the field. For though the Manchurian towns are to be free to all, yet only American and Japanese trade is likely to be benefited by the new markets. Changsha is an important addition, and cannot be said to be earmarked by any nation as yet. It is on the route of the Canton-Hankow Railway, and will be a big place some day. As for Kongsmoon, its opening may certainly be expected to benefit British trade more than that of others, but it exploits no new district, merely offers greater facilities to trade in a region already opened. The principle was no doubt recognised by Sir JAMES MACKAY and his advisers that the removal of restrictions on trade in the South is of more importance to Great Britain than any attempt to increase trade in the Far North. But unfortunately the best means of removing restrictions in the South was not adopted. Seeing that Japan and the United States have been able to secure the concessions which they desired, it is impossible to think that Great Britain could not have got more than the opening of Kongsmoon. As we have explained before, Waichow is the important place in the neighbourhood of Hongkong whose opening would make the most difference to this Colony. By putting Waichow in that Article of the MACKAY treaty which is practically a dead letter, Britain has committed a grave error. No other Power is likely to care the proverbial twopence for the opening of Waichow, at all events until the Canton-Hankow line begins to run branches down to the sea-coast. Had the MACKAY treaty stipulated for the opening of Waichow after exchange of ratifications, in the same way as the United States treaty has stipulated for the opening of Moukden and Antung and Japan's treaty

for Moukden, Tatungkou, and Changsha, then we should have had a substantial set-off against these privileges—for such they are, though nominally free to all the world.

But, it may be said, the opening of Moukden, Antung, and Tatungkou is farcical; Russia has dropped her bluff of evacuating Manchuria, and China has not the power to open any town in the province. The *Japan Mail* last week discussed this question. "It cannot be denied," said the Yokohama journal, "that the signing of such treaties constitutes an international recognition of China's sovereignty in Manchuria. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that the present condition of that sovereignty is altogether illusory. The *Kokumin Shinbun* writes as though the duty of seeing that the treaties are carried into practical effect devolved on the United States and Japan. It appears to us that such a use of terms is somewhat erroneous. The right to insist on the effective operation of the treaties certainly belongs to America and Japan, but the duty of giving effect to them rests wholly with China. Neither the Government of Tokyo nor that of Washington has incurred any new responsibility by signing these covenants. The two Powers have obtained new privileges. That is all. Should China show herself unable to carry out the promises she has now made, the United States and Japan will not be bound to furnish her with ability. Their natural course in such circumstances will be to exact from her reparation for a violated pledge." But the *Mail* thinks that Russia will offer no opposition to the opening of the new ports. Her armed presence in Manchuria need not interfere with trade. But, our contemporary continues, unless her designs in the Yalu Valley be of a much more innocent character than appearances indicate, the opening of two new ports near the mouth of the river, especially when one of them (Antung) constitutes her basis of operations in the Valley, cannot fail to affect the situation materially. The *Mail* holds that the opening of such Manchurian towns as will place between Russia and Corea a barrier of neutral settlements and the acquisition of such concessions in Corea itself as would effectually Japanese influence in the peninsula are Japan's best policy. Things look at present as though both these consummations were in sight, concludes the *Mail*. We must confess that to us the *Mail* seems extremely sanguine, though we should like to think its hopes justifiable.

BRITISH RAILWAY ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 20th October.)

Lieutenant-Colonel MANIFOLD, I.M.S., in his address to the Geographical section of the British Association at Southport last month made one more attempt to interest people at home in the subject of British railway enterprise (though the latter word is a misnomer) in China. We reproduced his paper in our issue of the 16th instant. It was mainly taken up with an account of two journeys in the Upper Yangtsze region just before and after the Boxer outbreak, with running comments on the various railway undertakings and projects, which the traveller came across. Colonel MANIFOLD confirmed what he and other observers have frequently said before. British over-caution and foreign activity were the general notes. Many persons, he remarked, were in favour of leaving foreign

nations to run the risk of losing their capital, forgetting the danger of preferential tariffs being set up against us, and even permanent protectorates being established. The iteration of such remarks is perhaps a little wearisome; but it seems to produce small or no effect, though the arguments are both strong and true. With regard to the question of preferential rates, as the *Times* points out in noticing Colonel MANIFOLD's address, while it is a fact that all the Great Powers have renounced preferential rates within their spheres, the value of such renunciation to each of the signatories will depend upon the vigilance and energy with which it is enforced, and precedent seems to justify the lecturer's scepticism as to British prospects under it. It is true that the British Government some five years ago deprecated British opposition to railway-construction by foreigners in China, maintaining, with the superb ingenuousness which the Government always has shown with regard to affairs in China, that such building of railways would not confer political power on the builders. The *Times* sarcastically remarks, in its article to which we have alluded: "Not only have these imprudent foreigners rushed in where the sagacious Briton, under the advice of his still more sagacious rulers, feared to tread, but they are recklessly contemplating fresh enterprises. The Government will hardly care to repeat in these days the contention that railway concessions in China do not confer political power, which Lord SALISBURY advanced in the House of Lords two months after he had instructed Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD that the Peking-Hankow concession, if the Russians had anything to say to it, would become 'a political movement against British interests in the region of the Yangtsze.' The success with which the concessions for the Manchuria railway have been utilised to effect the practical annexation of three large provinces of the Chinese Empire has demonstrated once for all the absurdity of that Parliamentary fiction." But, as the *Times* remarks later on, there is little trace to be seen, either in the Foreign Secretary's recent speech or in the action of the Foreign Office, of any real grasp of the Chinese railway question. Yet this question, to the most thoughtful observer, is that on which the future of foreign influence in China depends. If it is to be Russian railways, French railways, German railways which are to penetrate into the interior and open up China, then it will be Russian, French, German influence which will mould China's ideas as to foreign affairs and the relative importance of nations. The policy of Great Britain which is still being pursued in China is simply suicidal. To repeat this, as we have said, is wearisome; but it only becomes more true with the lapse of time.

As Colonel MANIFOLD's first journey was from Bhamo, in North Burma, and proceeded through Yunnan and Szechuen and so down the Yangtsze, it was naturally to be expected that he would have something to say about the prospects of a Burma-Yunnan railway. And so he had. His remarks have been somewhat anticipated by those of Captain RYDER before the Royal Geographical Society in London at the end of last year, for Captain RYDER was one of Colonel MANIFOLD's two companions for the greater part of the journey. Captain RYDER expressed no doubts as to the great future of the province of Yunnan. With a railway running into it a large trade with Burma would soon arise. But the question of the possibility of a railway could not be settled yet, though Captain

RYDER seemed, from his paper before the Geographical Society, to think one route at least feasible for a line of rails. Colonel MANIFOLD similarly says that there is no doubt of the advantages of such a railway if it could be constructed at reasonable cost, but great natural difficulties exist in the formation of the country, and the cost would be enormous. Even the supporters of the scheme, he adds, admit that the most carefully chosen line must be expensive. There is one question which we should like to put in connection with this, namely, would the cost be so enormous that it would be better to resign ourselves to the loss of the Upper Yangtsze and the entire cutting up by French and other lines of what was once called the British sphere of influence in China? The alternative seems certain. France has started some time ago to build a line from Hanoi to Yunnanfu, and however much the Chinese section of it may lag there can be no doubt it will one day be completed. If France is to be allowed to have the entire monopoly of railways in Yunnan, at what figure shall we estimate British trade with the province in the future? It is not hard to guess the answer. The French Government is wisely guaranteeing the construction of the railway, without any hope of a speedy repayment, but seeing that the Yunnan railway means the predominance of the railway-builders in Yunnan, and that Yunnan is the key to Szechuen, and Szechuen to the whole of the Upper Yangtsze. Truly the cost of a Burma-Yunnan line must be stupendous, if the task being at least possible, Britain is still forced to sit still and watch her access to the Upper Yangtsze being slowly but surely cut off. The days seem indeed remote when Britons in the Far East used to dream of a railway from India through Burma and South China to Kowloon. That was long before Russia evolved her magnificent project of a Trans-Siberian line, or the French and Belgians ever imagined that they would have a Peking-Hankow (and, according to rumour, Hankow-Canton) line, or France thought of connecting Hanoi with Yunnan, Szechuen, and the Upper Yangtsze. One of these lines is completed, the second is well under way, and the third is commencing. In the meantime we cannot even get a Kowloon-Canton railway. The British Government will no doubt solace itself and the credulous electors at home, when a sea-board terminus in other hands completes the line from Peking near Canton, and the Upper Yangtsze products are being carried down by rail to Indo-China, by exclaiming: "Well, anyhow it cost them a lot!"

BRITISH NAVAL REINFORCEMENTS.

(Daily Press, 19th October.)

The conference of the three Admirals at Singapore has not been slow in producing its result, if we make take it, as presumably we may, that the approaching detachment of a battleship from the Mediterranean squadron and the commissioning of H.M.S. *Europa* for this station are due to advice from the Admirals. The battleship to be sent out here has not yet been decided upon. The *Europa*, which paid us a flying visit last spring, is a first-class slooped cruiser, of 11,000 tons and 16,500 i.h.p. She was completed at Clydebank in 1899 at a cost of £589,835. Her armour is 4-2½ inches, deck, and 4½-2 inches, gun-position. She carries sixteen 6-in., fourteen 12-pr., four 3-pr. and eight machine guns;

and she has three torpedo-tubes. Her speed is 20.5 knots, and her complement 357 men. She is of the *Diadem* class, of which we have now the *Amphitrite* out here and have seen beside the *Europa* herself, the *Argonaut* and *Spartiate*. This reinforcement of the British squadron, though late in the day, is welcome; but it cannot be looked on as final, seeing that Russia is still hurrying out more of her very latest and strongest ships—unless, as we said the other day, Britain is prepared to take second place in Far Eastern waters.

THE NEW G.O.C. IN HONGKONG.

The announcement which we made in our first "Extra" yesterday morning of the appointment to the position of Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in China and Hongkong of Colonel VILLIERS HATTON, C.B., has been anticipated by rumour. Unfortunately a delay in the telegraphic service prevented us from announcing the news definitely yesterday. Colonel VILLIERS HATTON was born just over 51 years ago in London, his father being Lieutenant-Colonel VILLIERS HATTON. He was sent to Eton for his education and in 1870 joined the Grenadier Guards. Two years later he attained the rank of Captain; in 1882 he became Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1900 Colonel. In 1898 he served in the Sudan campaign under Lord (then Sir HERBERT) KITCHENER, being present at the battle of Khartoum, being mentioned in despatches, and receiving the British Medal and the Khedive's Medal with clasp. On the 1st November, 1900, he was placed on half-pay, having commanded the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards up to then. As to the date of Colonel HATTON's arrival in the Colony nothing can as yet be ascertained. Major-General GASCOIGNE's term does not expire until the 17th November, for officially he is only on leave now.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, 23rd October.)

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Dr. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

BYE-LAWS FOR SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Draft bye-laws for regulating the slaughter of animals were submitted and approved.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. J. J. Bryan) was laid on the table and passed.

Mr. RUMJAHN said he observed that in this report the Sanitary Surveyor had certified a great number of houses as fit for habitation. The Sanitary Surveyor was practically a drainage inspector, and he could not find in the Ordinance that he had a right to do so. The Board had never deputed the Sanitary Surveyor to pass these houses, so far as he could remember.

The PRESIDENT remarked that these certificates had been granted under the old Ordinance, the plans having been submitted before the new Ordinance was passed. The Sanitary Surveyor was authorised to pass the houses. Under the present Ordinance it would be necessary for the D.P.W. and the M.O.H. to pass them.

MARKING OF SMELLS.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health submitted the following minute:—With a view to the marking of smells arising from latrines I would recommend the Board to approve of the

use of dry earth only in all public latrines, the attendant to see that it is freely thrown into each soil-pipe after each use. The P.W.D. might be asked to allow earth to be obtained from convenient sites. I think that the bad smells often complained of near latrines are due partly to the chloride of lime which is used in the pans, especially during epidemic times, and I think that the value as a means of disinfection of chloride of lime in this way is not great and that dry earth would be preferable.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"If practicable, it is a very good scheme. Sand is freely used in Canton, and dry earth in the country, by the Chinese."

Hon. H. E. Pollock minuted:—"Before the recommendation of the M.O.H. is adopted, the objections raised by Dr. Lowson and Mr. Cooper and Surgeon-Major Westcott in 1895 will have to be carefully considered."

Mr. A. Rumjahn:—"This question requires a very careful consideration."

Mr. E. A. Hewett:—"We must now bear in mind that we have a far larger population to deal with than when the report referred to was written eight years ago."

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved that the matter be referred to an existing sub-committee.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was adopted.

RAT-RUNS.

There was submitted a minute by Dr. Barnett, Assistant M.O.H., suggesting an amendment to Sub-section 3 of Section 26 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, so as to provide for the closing up of holes in houses other than rat-holes.

The matter was referred to a sub-committee.

RAT-TRAPS AND BIRD-LIME.

There was submitted a minute by the Secretary suggesting that householders be informed by advertisement that rat-traps and bird-lime may be obtained free of cost.

Hon. Mr. Pollock minuted:—"Yes; very desirable."

The PRESIDENT moved and Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded that advertisements be inserted in the English and Chinese newspapers; the motion was agreed to.

THE WAR ON MOSQUITOES.

Dr. Barnett submitted a minute relative to the question of fumigating premises for mosquitoes, and suggesting that the people could quite easily carry out the fumigation with sulphur, thus saving the Sanitary Department considerable expense.

The President thought in future the householders should undertake it themselves.

Hon. Mr. Pollock thought it would be useful to have notices printed in English and Chinese showing the proper method of fumigating for mosquitoes.

This was agreed to.

AN EXEMPTION.

There was laid on the table an application for a modification of the requirements of Section 154 in respect of No. 15, Wa Lu Fong West.

The President minuted:—"As this is a corner house exemption might be granted."

Mr. Rumjahn:—"I agree with the President."

This matter was referred to a sub-committee.

USING A BASEMENT FOR PREPARATION OF FOOD.

Further correspondence was submitted relative to using the basement of No. 166, Queen's Road Central for the preparation of food.

Mr. Hewett minuted:—"The basement does not appear to be suitable for a bakehouse. The first floor (117, Wellington Street) could be used if bye-laws are complied with."

The application was refused.

MARKETS AT SHAIKIWAN AND QUARRY BAY.

In connection with an application for a licence to sell pork at 54A, Shaikiwan West, there was laid on the table a report by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in which he stated that the market was too small and recommended an extension.

Mr. Hewett minuted:—"The C.V.S.'s report bears out what I have already stated as to the necessity for making sufficient market accommodation in this district. I do not however understand why the Sanitary Board should be told on the 9th September 1903 that there

is no market and on the 7th October 1903 that the existing market is too small."

Hon. Mr. Pollock minuted:—"The C.V.S.'s recommendations should be promptly attended to."

In connection with an application for a licence to sell articles of food at No. 34, Quarry Bay, the C.V.S. reported that there was no market at Quarry Bay and recommended that a new market might be established between the villages of Saiwanho and Chunlung.

Mr. Hewett minuted his approval of the opening of a market for this district.

In response to a query by Hon. Mr. Pollock, the D.P.W. stated that the new road would probably be open for traffic in about two months.

The PRESIDENT moved that the Board recommend the Government to consider the provision of a new market in this district and that the C.V.S.'s report be forwarded.

FOOD AND DRUGS ANALYSIS.

The results of the examinations made by Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for the quarter ended 31st September were 4 samples of whisky, 1 of brandy, 1 of beer, 1 of port wine and 4 of milk. One sample of milk was found to be adulterated. The man was fined.

RAT-RETURN.

The rat-return showed that during the fortnight ended 19th inst. 654 rats had been destroyed. Of these 34 were infected.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The water analysis report sent in by Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, showed the water of all the public services to be of excellent quality.

AMOY DECLARED FREE OF INFECTION.

The PRESIDENT said that infectious diseases had ceased to exist at Amoy and moved that the Government be advised to withdraw the proclamation declaring it to be an infected port.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

There was no other important public business before the Board.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 6th October, 1903, at 3.45 p.m., Present:—Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. L. D. Law (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. C. Michelau, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (ex officio), and A. K. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held 8th ultimo were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

The SECRETARY reported that since the last meeting Mr. A. M. Essabhoj had been elected to membership subject to the usual confirmation by the members at the next annual general meeting.

QUARANTINE.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary dated the 15th ultimo stating that there were no quarantine regulations now existing in the port of Manila against arrivals from Hongkong. CROWN AGENTS' SYSTEM AND THE COLOMBO CHAMBER.

Read letter dated 8th ultimo from the Colombo Chamber thanking this Chamber for the information sent them as to the working of the "Crown Agents' System" and the Public Works Department in Hongkong, and also for the offer to continue the discussion of this question.

NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF FOR EUROPEAN RUSSIA.

PROPOSED NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF FOR AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Copies of these tariffs furnished to the Chamber by the Colonial Secretary on the 26th ultimo, with a request that the Government would be glad to receive any observations thereon which the Chamber may be disposed to offer, were laid on the table. It was agreed to look into the matter and send the Government the results of enquiry.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

Further Parliamentary papers relating to the working of the Brussels Convention forwarded by the Government were laid on the table. It was

decided to appoint a Sub-Committee composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. C.W. Dickson to report as to whether it would be advisable or not to bring in legislation to deal with the sugar trade of this Colony.

THE SALT TRADE OF THE COLONY.

A series of questions, relating to the salt trade and consumption in the Colony, asked by Chev. Z. Volpicelli on behalf of the Austrian Government, was laid on the table, and it was decided, on the suggestion of the Chairman, to leave him to discuss the matter with the applicant.

EXPLOSIVES ON BOARD STEAMERS IN THE HARBOUR.

The following correspondence was read:—
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 16th September.

SIR,—I have the honour to bring to your notice, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the obligation to fly the red flag and to lie in the dangerous goods anchorage by every steamer arriving at this port with ammunition on board in quantities however small, has recently been under consideration by the Committee of this Chamber with particular reference to the decision of the Magistrate of the Police Court in the case of the s.s. *Nordkyn*, whose master was fined \$50 on the 3rd instant for failing to comply with the regulations in this respect whilst having two cases of sporting cartridges on board.

It may be known to the Government that practically every coasting steamer trading in Chinese waters carries certain quantities of ammunition in the shape of cartridges for protection against piracy, and apparently the masters are liable under the Ordinance for infringing the red flag rule.

It is suggested that the maximum quantity allowed as cargo loading and discharging without their incurring the formalities required under the existing regulations might be placed at one hundred pounds of gunpowder or fixed ammunition to a quantity not exceeding twenty thousand rounds, so that the aggregate powder charges do not exceed one hundred pounds.

Such small quantities may, in the opinion of my Committee, be handled without any serious risk either at the wharves or amongst the general shipping in the stream, and I am instructed to enquire whether His Excellency can see his way to authorise the introduction of an amending ordinance containing such clauses as will meet the views of the shipping interest in this direction.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE.
Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 22nd September.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant regarding the conditions under which a vessel with ammunition on board may enter this harbour, and to inform you that the Government sees no sufficient reason for altering the law in the manner suggested by the Chamber.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. H. MAY.
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

After some discussion, it was decided to write again to the Government, drawing its attention to the fact that similar regulations to those suggested with regard to minimum quantities of ammunition cargo carried by steamers were in force in the Treaty Ports of China, and might with advantage be introduced in Hongkong, and also to point out that it is rather difficult to combat the reasons of the Government as these had not been expressed, and to suggest that the alterations which the Chamber of Commerce desired might be effected by Regulations made by the Governor in Council, and that an Ordinance would probably not be necessary.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Read letter from the Singapore Chamber dated 21st ultimo, expressing the thanks of that Chamber for the information furnished as to the action of the Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hongkong Chambers with regard to the Memorial to the Diplomatic Body at Peking, and asking for

any further particulars on the same subject which may be forthcoming.

The SECRETARY reported that the Chamber's letter of the 21st August was acknowledged by the Tientsin Chamber on the 15th ult. stating that the altered Memorial received from Shanghai had been approved, and that copies of the Memorial had been forwarded to all the Ministers at Peking, also that a letter had since been sent to the Tientsin Chamber asking for a complete copy of the petition containing the names of the signatories and addresses.

A letter dated 29th ultimo from the Colonial Secretary was read enclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to H.E. the Governor referring to the resolution agreed to at a recent meeting of the delegates from the United States, China, Mexico, and Great Britain regarding the monetary systems of silver-using countries and the establishment of a national currency in the Chinese Empire. The Secretary of State expressed the opinion that it seemed to be out of the question to entertain the idea of adopting a gold standard for Hongkong while China remained a silver standard country, and he did not therefore consider that it would be expedient to appoint a commission to inquire into the subject.

The CHAIRMAN said that the correspondence had since been published by the Government and that, under the circumstances, nothing could very well be done until it was known what attitude the Chinese Government intended to take up with regard to the resolutions passed by the Delegates at the Monetary Conference, and the opinions expressed in the joint memorial from the Chambers of Commerce of Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hongkong, a copy of which would doubtless be forwarded by the Diplomatic Body at Peking, to whom it was addressed.

IMBECILE EMIGRANTS ORDINANCE, 1903.

Mr. POLLOCK drew the attention of the Committee to the provisions of the new Bill now before the Legislative Council, and pointed out that section I, reading as follows:—“The owner, charterer, agent, consignee and master of every ship which brings into the Colony any passenger not domiciled in the Colony who at the time of his landing is either lunatic, idiotic or imbecile, deaf, dumb, blind or infirm, or becomes so within a period of six months from the date of landing, and who becomes a charge upon the public or upon any public institution, shall be held liable to repay to the Government of the Colony all costs and charges incurred by the Colony on behalf of such passenger—” pressed very unjustly on owners, charterers, agents, consignees and masters of ships who became liable to repay the cost to the colony of the expenses of passengers until same died or were deported, or who within 6 months after landing became idiotic, deaf or even infirm. He thought such expenses should be a charge on the Colony and not on the ships. It was decided to protest against the introduction of the measure.

CHINO-JAPANESE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

According to the *Jiji* the provisions of the new treaty are substantially as follows:—

Art. I.—Questions relating to Customs duties, supplementary Customs charges, the *tekin* tax and consumption tax, shall be determined in the same way as the treaties with other Powers.

Art. II.—Japan shall have the right of navigation between Ichang and Chungking, free from interference on the part of the Chinese.

Art. III.—Japanese vessels shall be entitled to enter any port in addition to the treaty ports, provided the fact be notified to the Customs.

Art. IV.—The regulations with regard to all enterprises carried out in co-operation between Japanese and Chinese shall be the same as those contained in the Anglo-Chinese treaty.

Art. V.—The grant of copyright to Chinese publications or the registration of trade-marks on Chinese products falsely purporting to be of Japanese origin shall not be permitted, nor shall copyright be granted to any objectionable publication, whether Japanese or Chinese.

Art. VI.—This provision relates to the Chinese currency, and is the same as that in the Anglo-Chinese treaty.

Art. VII.—This provision relates to a uniform system of weights and measures in China.

Art. VIII.—The present Inland Navigation Regulations shall be revised.

Art. IX.—This provision relates to the “most favoured nation clause.”

Art. X.—Peking shall be opened to foreign trade after the withdrawal of the foreign Legation guards at that place; Changsha in Hunan within six months after the exchange of ratifications of this treaty, and Mukden and Tatungkou after the exchange of ratifications.

Art. XI.—This provision relates to the revision of the existing Chinese Codes. The provision dealing with the abolition of extra-territoriality after the revision of the Codes, is the same as that contained in the Anglo-Chinese treaty.

Art. XII.—This treaty shall be made in triplicate, Japanese, English, and Chinese, the English copy to rule should dispute arise on a question of interpretation.

Art. XIII.—The exchange of ratifications of this treaty shall take place at Peking within six months after the treaty shall have been signed.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

THE DEADLOCK IN NEGOTIATIONS.

Fuller information with reference to the deadlock in the negotiations between Japan and Russia, telegraphically reported by our Kobe correspondent on the 8th inst., is contained in the Japan papers which arrived by the last mail. From the *Kobe Chronicle* we learn that the Tokyo correspondent of the *Asahi* (“who is remarkably able and well-informed and quite free from any alarmist tendencies”) wired that immediately on his return to Tokyo on Saturday, the 3rd instant, Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister, addressed a Memorandum to Baron Komura, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Baron Komura at once laid this Memorandum before the Cabinet, and an urgent telegram was sent to Marshal Marquis Yamagata, then in Kyoto, asking him to return to Tokyo at once. Immediately on Marquis Yamagata's arrival in Tokyo, a special Cabinet Council was held at the residence of the Premier. This was on Monday the 5th instant, and the Memorandum presented by Baron Rosen was then discussed. In this Memorandum it appears that Russia positively declined to give any promise as to withdrawal from Manchuria, saying that such a course was at the present time quite impossible. Nevertheless Russia was willing to recognise the paramount influence of Japan in Corea, and also to give an undertaking that the prestige and interest of Japan would be respected in carrying out what works were regarded as necessary in Manchuria. The Cabinet decided that such a reply left no room for further negotiations, and this decision of the Cabinet was immediately communicated to the Emperor by Baron Komura.

On Tuesday the 6th inst. Baron Komura had an interview with Baron Rosen, and told him that if the attitude of Russia was faithfully set forth in the Memorandum it was impossible for the negotiations to be continued. The interview only lasted for fifteen minutes. This statement was made verbally to Baron Rosen, apparently with a view to giving the Russian Government an opportunity to retreat from the position taken up before the formal despatch was addressed to the representative of Russia in Tokyo.

The correspondent adds, however, that it is as yet premature to conclude that the relations between the two countries will be broken off as a result of this message. It is thought possible that the Memorandum has only been presented to the Japanese Government with the idea of sounding the views of the Cabinet, and that a compromise will yet be arrived at in some way or other.

The *Chuo Shimbun* (Tokyo) states that the Memorandum presented by Baron Rosen pointed out that the question of the evacuation of Manchuria was one appertaining to China, and must be left to direct negotiations between Russia and China, Japan having no right of interference. Another point of the Memorandum was the offer to recognise Japanese influence in Southern Corea if Hamgyon-do (the northern province on the banks of the Yalu) was regarded as within Russia's sphere of influence. It scarcely seems possible that the Memorandum, remarks the *Kobe Chronicle*, can have contained the second suggestion, as such an offer would show a deliberate intention of treating Japan with contempt.

On Wednesday, the 7th inst., in consequence

of the circulation of a rumour that the Government had refused the Russian propositions for the settlement of the Manchuria question, the *Tairo Doshi Kai* decided to send a special deputation to the Premier with a view to ascertaining the situation. Acting upon this resolution, Mr. Hiraoka, who is the leader of the Progressists in the Diet, waited on the Premier and requested him to state for the public benefit as much as could be said regarding the negotiations, with due regard to the public interest. The Premier then informed Mr. Hiraoka that the Government had as yet made no formal answer to the propositions laid before Japan by Baron Rosen on behalf of Russia. Several meetings had been held between Baron Komura and Baron Rosen, when the views of the two Governments were exchanged. It was then found that these views were widely at variance, and before giving a formal answer to the Russian propositions, Baron Komura requested Baron Rosen to ask his Government to reconsider the matter, as so far there was no ground upon which Japan could enter into any formal negotiations with regard to the differences between the two Powers. Such was the substance of the statement made to Mr. Hiraoka.

It is understood that Baron Rosen, after receiving the verbal reply from Baron Komura, undertook to communicate with Admiral Alexieff, and is now awaiting his instructions.

On all hands news comes that preparations for emergencies are being rapidly pushed forward. Naturally it is thought well that no definite information regarding these preparations should be published, but from various facts that have come to the *Kobe Chronicle's* knowledge, it is evident that Japan is fully prepared to take what action she may consider necessary for the protection of her interests.

Our *Kobe* contemporary, in its issue of the 10th inst., reports that eleven members of the *Tairo Doshi Kai* waited on the Premier, Count Katsura, on the 9th inst., and presented, on behalf of 37,000 members of the Association, a Memorial urging the Government to declare war against Russia without delay. What answer the deputation received, however, is not published.

BARON KODAMA'S APPOINTMENT.

The *Kobe Chronicle* of the 13th inst. writes:—Perhaps the most important and significant information of the moment is that Lieutenant-General Baron Kodama, holding the portfolio of Minister for Home Affairs, and being also Governor-General of Formosa, has been released from office and appointed Vice-President of the General Army Staff Department. Since the death of Major-General Tamura this important post has been temporarily held by Major-General Fukushima, who will be remembered as the officer who made the famous ride across Siberia. It is assumed in some quarters that should events lead to a rupture of relations between Japan and Russia, Major-General Fukushima would be required for the front, and it is therefore necessary that the very important post of organiser at home should be filled by a man of great administrative ability. Lieutenant-General Baron Kodama has risen step by step in the Army, and has the reputation of being one of its best soldiers. His administrative ability was shown during the Japan-China war, when as Vice-Minister for War he was responsible for the equipment of the troops. On the re-organisation of the present Cabinet, Count Katsura gave the portfolio of War to Baron Kodama, who was at the same time Governor-General of Formosa and was in Tokyo previous to leaving on a trip to Europe. Although Marquis Oyama, the President, is the official head of the Army Staff Department, the work of the Department will be controlled by Baron Kodama.

A REJOINDER.

"Not a Diplomatist" writes as follows to the *N. C. Daily News* in criticism of some remarks of a "Diplomatist" and of Admiral Alexieff, as quoted by our Port Arthur correspondent and that of the *Daily News* lately:—

The Diplomatist surely must have been sadly snubbed at some time by the Japanese, for his view of their country, character, and charity is of the most pessimistic tone.

"A poor unfertile country"! Is this true? I recently travelled through 500 miles of Southern Japan; and nowhere in the richest

plains of China have I ever seen such magnificent crops of rice, besides maize and other grain.

"You have no idea how the Japanese people generally hate the foreigners who are living in their midst."

I do not think we have. For it is not true surely—not at all true of the Japanese attitude towards foreigners of certain nationalities which shall be nameless, for I would not injure the feelings either of the Diplomatist or of the Admiral. Without all doubt they regard with high respect and hearty friendship some foreigners, and they can and will discriminate. And marked courtesy and kindness without effusiveness have in so many parts of Japan taken the place of the fierce hatred of old days.

"The Japanese cannot expect help from any quarter." Indeed, this is Russian news of the first importance. Is it true? Is the English alliance so one-sided as the able informant would have us imagine? It is aimed at preserving the peace of the East, the open door, and the integrity of China. These are all threatened by Russia's undisguised ambition and aggression.

What if Russia, creeping out from her "Scythian" retreat (I quote the gallant Admiral's "plan of campaign") and from Port Arthur, finds the great fleets of other Powers deeply interested in "establishments on the Pacific seaboard," waiting for her outside?

England is not so perfidious as was once imagined. She will not stand quietly and unconcernedly and see her newest and very gallant ally "defeated," "annihilated," by a Power which, as the Diplomatist and Admiral both admit, has no need of this newly coveted territory for any surplus population; but simply for superfluous ambition, and her mysterious restless flow.

But Diplomatist and Admiral sum up all in so summary a way that I, too, must to follow them, be summing also, and suggest that if the result of the war which Russia is deliberately provoking be the complete defeat of Japan, and note the cheerful corollary of these eminent men—"an unparalleled massacre of the foreign residents in Japan"—it is absolutely necessary for all concerned in the common interests of this great East of Asia—no Russian hunting ground—no Russian preserve—and for the great Powers whose citizens are living in Japan in large number, to declare that war shall not be—and declare this to the aggressor's face in the first place.

THE MINDANAO PIRACY.

Manila papers, dated the 16th inst., bring full details of the tragic finale to the piratical exploit of the two Philippines Constabulary officers, Captain Herman, and Lieutenant Johnson. It would appear that fate was against them for in their three attempts to escape to sea they were each time foiled by their boatmen, the last with tragic violence, when they themselves were the victims of pirates. First the captain of the *Victoria* beached that boat, and the fugitives seized a banca, when the boatmen of that craft played them the same trick. The men thereupon seized a *parao*, a native cargo-boat, and forced the crew to put to sea, and that was the beginning of the end. The *parao* was sailing along near the island of Coguyamillo, off the west coast of Negros, and all appeared to be going well, when suddenly without a word of warning the crew seized some rifles and in an instant shot Johnson dead, with two bullets in his heart. Herman, and the Filipino constable, Fuentes, leapt up and used their revolvers to some purpose, killing four of their desperate assailants, but not before Herman had received two frightful gashes in his neck from spears from which the blood freely flowed all over him, while Fuentes was shot in the chest and stabbed four times. Of the crew of six, four were killed, and seeing this, and that Herman, though so badly wounded, could still use his revolver, the remaining two did not stop to think about it, but dived overboard and swam ashore. Then, weak as he was, Herman got the *parao* to the shore, and, fearing the crew might return with reinforcements, and finish their butchery on him, filling his pockets with what money he could carry, as well as arms and ammunition, he disappeared. The *parao* was shortly afterwards discovered by a party of natives, who suddenly came upon it with its ghastly burden, and notified the authorities at

Nabalao and Lipolay, stating that they had seen a blood-stained white man wearily wending his way up a mountain path back of Batoon. Fuentes was not dead, and after being tended, and his wounds dressed, he told the tragic tale. A constabulary corporal from Lipolay took charge of him, together with the arms, ammunition, and the remainder of the treasure, as far as Cabacatan, Occidental Negros, where they were handed over to Lieut. Conway. Johnson was buried at Nabalao. Lieut. Conway later telegraphed that Herman was drowned, having fallen overboard from the *parao*, while endeavouring to navigate her, but this proved incorrect. While some of the natives who saw Herman went and informed Captain Haskell, at Bataan, others followed the fugitive until, weary and exhausted, he threw himself down in the shade of some trees and fell asleep. Seeing this, while some of them kept watch over him, other natives returned to report his whereabouts, so that when Captain Haskell, who was accompanied by Lieut. Freill and a squad of men, arrived on the scene, all they had to do was to wake the man and tell him he was under arrest. Herman was too weak to rise, or to offer any resistance, remarking that he had entirely lost heart from the moment of Johnson's death. On his person were found two revolvers, a large supply of ammunition, and \$1700 Mex. Herman presented a pitiable appearance, with his deadly white face, blood-stained and tattered clothes, and the discoloured bandages round his throat. He had nothing to add to the statements already published of the escapade, which he said were true. The officers took their prisoner under a strong guard to Zamboanga, en route for Cebu, where, as soon as he is in a condition to stand it, he will be put on his trial, on the counts of piracy, robbery, murder, sedition, bandolism, etc. As he was too weak to attempt to escape, the officers only apprehended a possible attempt to commit suicide on Herman's part, so he was strongly guarded and closely watched; but he remained passive, and made no effort at self-destruction.

SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

With the arrival in Shanghai some few weeks since of Mr. A. H. Collinson, the engineer-in-chief, and a staff of four assistant engineers, a substantial start has now been made towards the building of the long-projected, but only recently authorised, railway between Shanghai and Nanking. Already work has been commenced on the preliminary surveys, and during the past fortnight, Mr. Collinson has traversed the whole line of route, travelling by house-boat and chair as far as Nanking. Unfortunately the examinations now proceeding at the viceregal capital made it impossible for him to be received in audience by the Viceroy, and another journey has to be made to Nanking next week for that purpose. The railway will run as nearly as possible in a direct line to Nanking and will be roughly 200 miles long. The country to be passed over presents comparatively few engineering difficulties, but there will be one tunnel, and the many rivers to be crossed necessitate many bridges and a good deal of embankment. The British and Chinese Corporation which holds the concession, is now being floated in London. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are the agents for the Corporation, and not, as is commonly supposed, constructing the railway themselves. The Corporation is establishing its own headquarters in Shanghai, from whence the general direction of the work will proceed. The line will probably be opened section by section and, it is hoped, trains will be running over some portion long before the five-year limit fixed by the Chinese Government has expired.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Advices from Canton state that the Chinese authorities there have been making extensive preparations to meet the contingencies that may arise in the event of a war breaking out between Japan and Russia. In mandarin circles the outbreak of the war is considered certain. Troops are ready for mobilisation in Kwangsi to keep in check the rebellious faction there who might take the opportunity of trouble in the North to make disturbance and embroil the neighbouring French province. Foreigners in the interior are being recalled in view of the threatening situation.

RESCUE IN HONGKONG HARBOUR.

About half-past three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Dawson, wife of Captain Dawson of the China Navigation Co.'s s.s. *Taiyuan*, was out sailing in the Harbour in a yacht with her son of 17 years of age and her little boy and girl when the boat heeled over and capsized near Jardine's godowns at East Point, and about 80 yards from the shore. They were all thrown into the water and were in imminent danger of being drowned when Mr. J. A. Lyons, senior sanitary inspector, came to the rescue. He was passing along the Praya when he saw the accident happen, and as the Chinese boat-people made no shape to go to the assistance of the yacht he at once ran down to the end of the wharf opposite Observation Place and, throwing off his tunic, jumped off the pier and swam out to the relief of the party in distress. Mr. Lyons is a very fine swimmer, one of the best in Scotland, and it was a very fortunate circumstance that he was at hand to lend assistance.

He swam out rapidly to the yacht, which by this time was lying on her side with all her late occupants in the water; on the way, he called out in Chinese to some junk people to pull to the relief in a dinghy—the native shallow dug-out. Just as this craft got up to the capsized boat Mr. Lyons succeeded in getting hold first of the girl, who had just rolled off the mainsail into the water, and then of the boy. He transferred them to the dinghy and hurried to the rescue of Mrs. Dawson and her son who were both immersed in the sea. He assisted Mrs. Dawson to the boat and then helped the son, and his difficulties were made worse by reason of the fact that in getting the party into the dug-out it partly filled with water and was in danger of sinking. However they were all safely got on board at last and were taken ashore, very much exhausted. Mr. Lyons was unable to find room in the sampan and had to swim ashore.

This brave action of Mr. Lyon calls for the highest commendation, and we trust it will receive due recognition from the authorities.

In jumping from the wharf, the gallant rescuer injured himself, and was further hampered by his trousers and boots. The risk attending the rescue was accentuated by the sails and rigging in which Mrs. Dawson and her family were entangled, besides the choppy sea and strong current. The lady knew enough about swimming to keep herself afloat her eldest son also swims a little.

The rescued party were further taken care of by Mr. Lyons and his wife at 17, Morrison Hill Road, where restoratives were administered and dry clothing found, with the happiest results. Mrs. Dawson lost a diamond ring and some other jewelry, but otherwise is none the worse for the immersion.

Capt. Dawson, arrived on Thursday morning in the *Taiyuan*.

THE A.D.C.

The Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club informs us that the Club will present *Lord and Lady Algy* about the middle of November, and the piece is now in active rehearsal. The following is the complete cast—

Duke of Droneborough	Mr. H. W. Bird
Marquis of Quarumby (his younger son)	Mr. John Hays
Lord Algernon Chetland (his younger son)	Mr. H. F. Rutterworth
Hon. Crosby Jethro (of the Cold-streams)	Capt. Busha, R.A.
Capt. Standidge (of the Cold-streams)	Mr. F. Hayley Bell
Brabazon Tudway	Surg. Norris, R.N.
Richard Annesley	Mr. A. Chapman
Montague Denton	Lt. Davidson, R.A.
Mr. Jeal (a reporter)	Lt. Hodgson, S.F.
Kinch (a sheriff's officer)	Mr. Hudson
Swenson (valet to Lord Algernon)	Mr. P. W. Goldring
Mawley Jemmett (Lord Algernon's jockey)	Mr. M. D. Silas
Wyke (Tudway's footman)	Major Baker Brown, R.A.
Lady Algernon Chetland	Mrs. Grace
Lady Pamela Mallinson	Miss Hazeland
Ottoline Mallinson (her niece)	Mrs. Fullerton
Emily Cardew	Mrs. A. Chapman
Mrs. Brabazon Tudway	Mrs. P. N. H. Jones
Mrs. Vokins (her mother)	Mrs. Baker Brown

SATURDAY'S PROMENADE CONCERT.

The concert given in aid of the Hongkong Ladies' Benevolent Society on the 17th inst., on the Volunteer Parade ground, (which had been kindly lent for the occasion) must be described as a great success, and judging from the very large audience present, no doubt the Society in whose aid the concert was given will benefit very considerably, through the kindly exertions of those who took part. The programme was well arranged, and the ready applause and many encores testified to the appreciation of the efforts of the performers by those present to hear them. Part I opened with the Overture to the *Bohemian Girl* excellently played by the orchestra of 34 performers, under the very able conductorship of Mr. George Grimbale, who was in close touch with his company throughout. One of the most pleasing items of the evening's entertainment was the performance of a violin solo by Miss Gretta Bunny, a dainty little maiden of some ten summers who, with remarkable taste and expression, gave Singele's Fantasia on *Il Trovatore*, with a fineness and delicacy of touch which proclaimed her undoubted possession of the gift of music. She at once fiddled her way into the hearts of her audience, as shown by the storm of applause she deservedly received, and it is to be hoped we shall hear more from the bow of this charming little player in the near future. "Parted," by Mr. J. Ellinger was very well rendered, as also was "The Mission of the rose" by Captain Phillips, R.M.L.I.

It was easily to be seen that Mr. H. A. Tozer is a favorite on the concert platform, for his appearance was the signal for continuous applause. His rollicking song, "Wouldn't you like to go?" and the encore were excellently given, and delighted his very appreciative audience, so much so that at the conclusion of his songs, a wag handed him up a bouquet! The first part closed with Brahms's Hungarian Dances, 1 and 2, in finished style by the full orchestra. After an interval of ten minutes, during which the majority of the audience rose and promenaded about the grounds, the orchestra again showed their power, skill, and training in selections from the incidental music to *Henry VIII*, which was followed by a very fine rendering of "Oh! hear the wild winds blow" by Mr. C. H. Grace, who has a true baritone voice. Mrs. J. Whiteley Kew was very pleasing in "Ashore," and her encore song, "Violets," which were charmingly rendered. Another violin solo followed, excellently played by Mrs. Arthur Ough, her selections being "Berceuse," and "Capriccio." Mr. Ellinger again appeared and gave "Dedication," by Frauz, in good style. "Let us pause" was the concluding solo by Mr. Tozer, who gave it in his usual jolly style. The playing of the waltz "Carlotta" by the orchestra was a grand performance and brought a very entertaining concert to a close, and sent the audience away delighted with their evening's amusement. Mr. Davidson, and Mr. George Grimbale must not be forgotten in dealing out the measure of praise due to all, for their very excellent work as accompanists.

The following is the full list of those who so ably played in the orchestra.

ORCHESTRA.

First Violins:—Mrs. Arthur Ough, Miss Drew, Miss Gretta Bunny, Mr. F. C. Barlow, Mr. C. Schröter, Mr. G. Sydney, Mr. A. Howard, Mr. Xavier, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Rozario, Second Violins: Miss W. Bateman, Mr. Dominisch, Mr. Hall, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Sibbett, Sergt. Jenkins, R. E. Mr. A. Beck, Mr. W. L. Pattenden, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Alves, Mr. Catchick Mr. Remedios. Violas: Dr. Swan, Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Rozario, Junr. Violoncellos: Mr. Koenig, Mr. P. L. Miller. Double Bass: Mr. P. N. Sequeira. Flutes: Mr. Kammel, Mr. Silas, Mr. Osmond. Oboe: Mr. W. Anderson. Fagotto: Mr. A. S. Tuxford. Bass Clarinet: Mr. G. W. Assumpção. Clarinet: Mr. A. S. Tuxford, Mr. Gubbay, Mr. Murray, Mr. Beck. Euphonium: Mr. Osmond. Cornets: Mr. Godwin, Mr. Gidley. French Horn: Mr. Spratt. Tenor Trombone: Sapper Powell, R. E. Piano: Mrs. S. J. Powell, Mr. F. F. Bovet. Conductor: Mr. George Grimbale.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

At the present time a specimen of *Bauhinia purpurea* may be seen in flower at the Albany entrance steps, and two others in the Albany Road. It grows into a small tree, and when in flower is a very pretty sight. Many examples may be seen in Macdonnell Road, Kowloon; Macdonnell Road, Garden Road, east bank, and Lower Richmond Road in Hongkong. The flowers are about four inches across, produced in short-peduncled corymbs, and from light to dark purple in colour. The tree has been known in England since 1778, and is a native of the Himalayas, Khasin Mountains, Ceylon and Peuang. In the *Flora of British India* it is also stated it extends to China, but it is not included in the list of Bauhinias in the *Index Florae Sinensis*. Bauhinias belong to the Pea family.

A plant with terminal, erect spikes of bright, rosy red flowers, nearly an inch in diameter, and known under the name of *Plumbago rosea*, is now represented by several specimens, in pots, at the fountain in the old garden. It grows to a height of a little more than 2ft., and is apparently a native of the south-east of Asia, and is largely cultivated in India. Sir Joseph Hooker thinks that it may be a variety of *Plumbago Zeylanica*, which is found wild generally in the East Indies and in the neighbourhood of Stanley, Hongkong, where it was first detected by the late Dr. Hance.

The genus *Clerodendron* contains many useful garden plants, and *Clerodendron nutans*, which forms a shrub 6 or 8ft. high with rather long, terminal, pendulous panicles of white flowers, is one of the best. Two or three plants are in flower in the new garden on the banks to the west of the deer-pen. This plant prefers a northern aspect in Hongkong, and it should never be allowed to suffer from drought. It is a native of India and Burmah, and belongs to the natural order *Verbenaceae*.

The rainfall for the month to date has been 78 of an inch, and for the year 92.14 inches.

THE DEATH OF THE REV. H. C. HODGES.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 17th inst. says:—Yesterday morning the foreign residents of Shanghai were greatly shocked to hear of the death of the Rev. H. C. Hodges, who for so many years has been the Chaplain at Trinity Cathedral. The deceased was not well for three or four days previously, but the indisposition was not of such a nature as to confine him to his room, and on each day of the Interport cricket match he was an interested spectator of the game. Early yesterday morning, however, a serious illness, accompanied by severe sickness, attacked him, and he expired at about eight o'clock. Bishop Scott was present at the deathbed, but the seizure was so sudden that before Dr. Macleod could arrive at the deanery where he was summoned the end had come. The cause of death is not yet known, but a post-mortem examination of the body was to be held. A preliminary inquest took place at the mortuary in Shantung Road yesterday afternoon before the Coroner (Mr. J. C. E. Douglas) and a jury composed of Messrs. A. Wilson, W. H. Bell, and P. F. Lavers. Evidence of identification of the body having been given by Mr. J. L. Scott, one of the Trustees of the cathedral, who said he received a telephone message at eight o'clock in the morning from Dr. Macleod saying that deceased had just died, the enquiry was adjourned until Monday morning at H.B.M.'s Consulate. The Rev. H. C. Hodges came to Shanghai in succession to the Rev. F. R. Smith in May, 1886, so that he occupied the chaplaincy for seventeen years. During the whole of that time he took an active part in the good work of the Foreign Settlement, and his name was connected with many of the useful and charitable institutions in our midst; with school and mission work he was particularly identified, and his devotion to the cause of the Thomas Hanbury School produced most beneficial results. His interest in Shanghai Public Library, and his sympathy with the efforts of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, were shown in many useful

ways; every movement which had as its object the advancement of the moral good of the community received his support. Amongst his other duties he included that of chaplain to the local Volunteer force, and it was only in August last he received the China war medal at the hands of Sir Ernest Satow. Associated with him in all his labours was his wife, for whom the keenest sympathy is felt. A genial, kind-hearted man, always ready to oblige and broad-minded, he made hundreds of friends during his service in Shanghai, and not one enemy. He will be long regretted.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 20th October.

THE VICEROY ILL.

There has been a dearth of news during the last ten days, but "no news is good news" still. The Viceroy, who, it will be remembered, was ailing while in Kwangsi, has had to take to his bed with a severe cough. This morning he summoned a foreign doctor to attend him—an example which may be followed by lesser officials.

PETITIONS.

One of the most popular reforms instituted by the Viceroy is that in connection with the presentation of petitions. The *weiyuans* have been appointed to receive the petitions directly from petitioners, who are strictly enjoined to observe the six regulations in force, such as affixing the seal of the head-man of the ward, obtaining a special number from the "petitions" department, etc. Not a single cash to be given to any Yamen official, and any such caught in the act of squeezing will be severely punished.

OFFICIALS, OLD AND NEW.

The case of the ex-Namhoi magistrate Pei has at length been settled. He is to contribute \$300,000 towards public expenses in the city, which thus recovers something at least of the enormous sums levied by this official.

Li Ka Cheuk has been removed from his prison for judgment, but his case will probably be delayed pending H.E. Shum's recovery. A petition has been presented in his favour by a high official.

Cheung Wun Wo, late Commander-in-Chief in Waichow prefecture, has been removed from his command. It is hoped that his successor, Ng Cheung Tat, will do better in the troubled district. The Waichow people are delighted at his appointment, and have given him a warm welcome, burning incense in the temples and praying for his success.

Taotai Cheung Ming Ki is the first to fill the new post of Director of the Board of Education, established by Viceroy Shum. Cheung has control of all the schools in the province, and under his guidance great progress is hoped for.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 17th October.

CORRUPT EXAMINERS AGAIN.

This year, as every year, the triennial literary provincial examination in Canton for the degree of *Ku-yen* has been a failure—a fact which irritates and disappoints many students, as well as those gambling in the Wai Sing lottery. It is all on account of the latter that the failure has come about. The report goes as follows (and it is proved to be true, for there is going to be an official investigation):—Several persons whose names are Li, Kong, Lao, etc., formed a society and staked heavily on the Wai Sing lottery. By bribery they persuaded eight officials known as *nifungli*, whose duty it was to seal up the essays of the students, and employed several scholars in the Examination Hall to look over all the essays, alter those that were likely to pass, and put up the names of those which the syndicate bought in their stead. In consequence the scholars whose names are well known and who were backed heavily in the Wai Sing lottery have been disappointed. This matter having come to the knowledge of the Viceroy, His Excellency has ordered the eight *nifung* officials to be placed under arrest and the conduct of all those officials who have anything to do with the examination to be under strict investigation. This incident has caused great excitement in Canton and everybody is talking

about it. The principal names suppressed are Pang, Cheong, Tong, Kum, Lui, etc.

The late Magistrate Pin King-fuk of Nam Hoi has got off lightly. He has, through the intercession of somebody with the Viceroy, offered to pay a pretty heavy fine of Tls. 200,000 to the government, and is degraded to the position of a *weiyuin*. As the Chinese say, "big fish eat small, small eat shrimps, and shrimps eat mud."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ICE AND COLD STORAGE CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Hongkong, 19th October.

SIR,—A prospectus has been issued of "The Canton-Hongkong Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd.," and this proposed enterprise has been advertised in the local papers. The capital is \$700,000, of which \$200,000 is to be set aside by the board of directors for services rendered, etc.; or in other words the promoters ask for nearly one-fourth of the shares for putting this valuable enterprise on the market. The prospectus, too, especially states that the directors would not lend their names to any non-meritorious enterprise and that the connection of these men with the Company is a guarantee of a safe investment; but is not \$200,000 for promotion of the Company rather a stiff price to pay on a capital of \$700,000, and before the ever-confiding public rush in to take up these shares, could you not, Mr. Editor, give some information in your paper as to why such a large sum is required for a promoting fee?—Yours, etc., X.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 22nd October.

SIR,—A letter published in your issue of 19th October, signed "X," in which the writer asks for information regarding the so-called "promotion shares" of the Canton-Hongkong Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd., has been called to my attention, and in regard to the same I desire to say:

The company referred to maintain an office located in the Watkins Building, Queen's Road, Hongkong, where the secretary or other officers are prepared to answer any questions, eliminating the necessity of making enquiry through the Press.

The Board of Directors decided that as certain expenditures, such as machinery, lands, and material, could be partially paid for with shares, a portion, to wit 20,000, be set aside to be used for this purpose, and while there are nine directors, yet no one had the time to give his entire attention to the promotion of the enterprise, and that certain persons be employed for this purpose, and commissions or services rendered be also paid in shares, and further the Board of Directors have decided that subscribers of 50 shares will get 5 promotion shares. It was not supposed that the entire amount of 20,000 would be required for this purpose, but it was set aside, and not offered for sale. The shares remaining after the concern is started are the property of the Company.

If Mr. X or any other person has purchased shares, and is not satisfied with the investment, and will deposit the same with the Guarantee Trust Co., the President will be pleased to give his personal cheque for the same at par. If there were anything improper in the formation or promotion of the Company, it is hardly probable that we would have published it.—Yours, etc.,

CHAN A TAK,
Secretary.

The Japanese journal *Yorodzu* reports that the Tsar is to return to St. Petersburg, without meeting the Kaiser as intended at the outset, and has ordered Viceroy Alexieff to hurry to St. Petersburg. In diplomatic circles in Tokyo the view is taken that the Tsar considers Viceroy Alexieff's policy too harsh and therefore desires to restrict his supreme representative in the Far East in the negotiations with Japan. The Viceroy desires to bring the negotiations with Japan to a conclusion one way or the other, before he proceeds to the capital. In other words, it may be said that Viceroy Alexieff advocates far stronger policy in dealing with this country than the Tsar himself approves of.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting of the shareholders the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd. was held at the office of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., at noon on Thursday. Present: Hon. C. W. Dickson (Chairman), Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. F. Maitland, J. H. Lewis, and E. Shellim. (Members of Consulting Committee), G. L. Tomlin, A. Turner, S. A. Joseph, R. C. Wilcox, C. Rogge, H. C. Wilcox, A. Brooke Smith, K. McK. Ross, P. Tester, J. Goosmann, F. D. Goddard, A. G. Morris, J. Whittall, Chau San, Ho Fook, Lau Cheng Chui, Tam Hock See, Ho Yue-sang and G. I. Veitch, Secretary. The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said—With your permission we will take the report and accounts which have been in your hands since the 26th ult. as read. In presenting these for your confirmation the General Agents and Consulting Committee trust they will meet with your approval. An increase of 2% in the dividend declared, the addition of \$50,000 to the reserve fund, the carrying forward of an amount in excess of last year, and the setting aside of a substantial sum as the nucleus of a re-insurance fund, all show the satisfactory working of the office for 1902. Your committee have been induced to start this re-insurance fund in order to enable the office to carry somewhat larger lines than it would be prudent to do otherwise, and because it has been proved that over a series of years the first class risks we had to re-insure, in order to keep within the limits which prudence dictated, resulted in a very satisfactory profit. A portion of this profit we hope in future to retain for ourselves, if the same good fortune attend the business, and yet be able to fully reciprocate with those companies which place excesses with us. You will have noticed the omission from the present report of an estimate of the present year's working. It is not possible to get in from our various distant agencies such full returns as would enable us to put before you a statement which could in any sense be called approximate, and with the possibility of unintentionally misleading you, your Committee have concurred in the General Agents' proposal to henceforward discontinue the practice of publishing such an estimate. I am happy, however, to be able to state that up to date the premium income of the present year is considerably in excess of last, and our known losses are approximately the same, notwithstanding mishaps of perhaps an exceptional nature, amongst which I may specially instance the frequent fires on board homeward-bound steamers from the East, the uncertain cause of which is a source of anxiety to all marine underwriters. I do not know of any further remarks I can usefully make, but I shall be pleased to reply to any questions that may be asked.

There being no questions asked, the CHAIRMAN then proposed that the report of the Directors and statement of account, be taken as read.

Mr. G. L. TOMLIN—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed that the election of Mr. E. Shellim to a seat on the Consulting Committee be confirmed, and that the retiring members, the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. D. E. Brown, F. Maitland, J. H. Lewis, and E. Shellim, be re-elected.

Mr. A. TURNER seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the auditors, Messrs. W. H. Potts and R. C. Wilcox be re-elected.

This was seconded by Mr. H. C. WILCOX and carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend Warrants will be ready to-morrow morning.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

In a case of embezzlement in Manila, it was argued that the long delays in examining accounts by the Government tended to encourage embezzlement. It does not seem as if embezzlement needed much "encouragement" in the Philippines at present.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 19th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISCHARGED.

Leung Yam Tai and Man Hop King, two elderly women who were charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a woman in childbirth in the Pingshan district of the New Territory, were discharged, the Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, stating that he did not intend to proceed against them.

THEFT BY A JEWELLER'S WORKMAN.

Wong I Lan was charged with having, while the servant of one Ng. Fuk, jeweller, Cochrane Street, on 31st July stolen two pieces of gold, and on 19th August stolen one piece of gold and received a diamond ring that had been stolen.

He pleaded guilty to stealing the gold but denied the receipt of the ring.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. C. W. Richards (foreman), G. B. Eldridge, I. Turner, C. W. Herser, J. Little, N. H. Antia, and W. D. C. Spalckhaver.

The Attorney-General said the defendant had been employed in complainant's jewelry-shop as a worker in gold. He left the shop on 12th September, and on the 14th another employee left. Subsequent to their departure certain valuables were found missing, among other things this ring which prisoner was charged with receiving. Afterwards he went to Canton. The prosecutor's wife followed him and brought him back and he was handed over to the Hongkong police.

After hearing evidence, the jury found the prisoner guilty as libelled.

His Lordship passed sentence of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, and recommended that the prisoner be deported at the end of his sentence.

THEFT OF DIAMONDS.

Chiu Cheong was charged with having, on 14th September, being then employed by one Ng Fuk, stolen seven diamonds.

He pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said the prisoner was employed in the shop of Ng Fuk, jeweller. Fifteen diamonds were given to him to set. On the 14th September he absconded, and on examination of the place where he used to work the master found that only eight out of the fifteen diamonds were in the drawer in which they had been kept. Naturally he supposed that the prisoner had absconded with the other seven. His doubts were set at rest because he got a letter from the prisoner practically admitting the charge against him. He admitted having taken the diamonds, but said he lent them to a man to look at, on approval as it were, and that the man ran away with them. If that was all the excuse he had to offer the jury would have to find him guilty. The wife of the prosecutor went to Canton and brought the prisoner back, and he was given into custody.

Having heard the evidence the jury found the charge proven.

His Lordship passed sentence of 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

RETURNING FROM BANISHMENT.

Ngan Fuk was charged with returning from banishment.

He pleaded guilty. He said that when he was banished he went to Canton for a month and then returned to Hongkong on the advice of a friend.

The Attorney-General stated that this was the third time the prisoner had returned from banishment.

His Lordship passed sentence of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour and ordered that the prisoner be banished at the end of that term.

HOUSEBREAKING.

Cheung Kan and Woo Ku were charged with having broken into a dwelling-house at 10, High Street and stolen a box containing clothing, a pipe, etc., valued at \$487.

Cheung Kan pleaded guilty, and Woo Ku not guilty.

Evidence showed that Cheung Kan went to the house to see the master, who was a friend of his. The master was not in, and as he wanted enough money to take him to Canton he took the box, not thinking that it was of so much value as it actually was. The other man was a party to the theft. They were making off with the box when the people of the house noticed them, and gave chase; and they were captured.

The jury found the charge against the second prisoner proved, and they were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 20th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED BRIBERY.

Yeung Shui was charged with having on 29th September offered to S. M. Gidley, sanitary inspector, a bribe of \$10, two boxes of cigars, and two jars of ginger with a view to influence the conduct of the inspector in connection with the cleansing of Heung Lane.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors).

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. C. Schroeter, W. Hutchison, J. McCorquodale, F. D. Baretto, F. W. Melchers, J. Little, and J. Wacker.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, stated that the prisoner was a servant in the Lun On ginger-shop. On 29th September he went to Inspector Gidley's house and handed to him two boxes of cigars, two jars of ginger, and an envelope containing two \$5 notes, saying to him, "These are for you from my master." The inspector took the man into custody there and then and took him, along with the articles offered as a bribe, to the police station. It was the duty of the inspector as one of the sanitary staff to see, among other things, that the lane in which the shop of the prisoner's master was situated was kept clean, and it was suggested that the object of offering this bribe was to make the inspector go easy in respect to the cleansing of Heung Lane. Prisoner by way of explanation said that his master told him to take these things and give them to the inspector. There was no difficulty at all about the facts. The question would be whether the prisoner had a knowledge of the object with which these presents were sent to the inspector. If prisoner knew that these articles were offered with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant, he was equally guilty with his master.

The jury, after hearing evidence, found the charge not proven.

His Lordship discharged the prisoner.

In connection with the same case Lui Fo the master of the shop, was charged with having procured to be offered to Inspector Gidley the articles mentioned above as a bribe.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. A. Ellis, A. H. Tyack, N. H. Antra, J. R. Michael, A. N. Huke, A. A. Alves, and W. O. C. Spalckhaver.

The Attorney-General related the facts of the case, which were the same as stated above, prisoner being the master of the shop who sent Yeung Shui to give the bribe to Inspector Gidley.

The jury found the charge proven.

His Lordship in passing sentence said, I understand your firm is a respectably conducted one, and I do not think that in this case it is shown that you wished to bribe the sanitary inspector to do anything really bad. It is clear, however, that you wished to influence his conduct as a public servant to cause him to treat your shop and the lane you used with special favour. There could be no object in making presents of goods and money to the Sanitary Inspector to make him simply do his duty and act towards your shop with no more consideration than towards others in his district. But if bribes are taken the recipients richly deserve punishment,

and therefore it is right that those who offer them and so tempt others to crime should be punished also. In this case, bearing in mind all the circumstances, I will not send you to prison, but you must pay a fine of \$500, in failure of which you must be imprisoned. I understand that you are prepared to pay that fine. The jury did quite right in convicting you, but I do not regard it as a really bad case, and I trust the punishment inflicted will act as a warning to others. If not I shall have to inflict severer punishment in future.

The Court rose.

Thursday, 22nd October.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

KWOK CHIN HIN v. KWONG SUI HING AND OTHERS.

This was a notice of motion for leave to appeal against a decision of Mr. Justice Wise of the 19th September, 1903, on questions of fact, his Lordship, it was alleged, having, contrary to the evidence, found as facts that (a) the document sued upon in the action had been altered since the appellant affixed his signature; (b) that the document was not to be sued upon until the accounts of the Port Arthur business had been gone into jointly by the appellant and by somebody on behalf of the respondents; (c) that there was no agreement come to between the parties in the month of June, 1903, for the Chinese agreement to be entered into between them with reference to the consideration to be paid by the appellant to the respondents for the Port Arthur business; (d) that the letter Exhibit 10 which showed the value of the Port Arthur assets to be only \$23,700 was probably invented for the purpose of the said action; on the ground that one Shing Kwai, otherwise Yew Hing, was a material and necessary witness upon the facts enumerated in (d) and that his Lordship refused to allow an adjournment of the action on the application of the appellant for the purpose of allowing time for Shing Kwai to come down from Dalny to give evidence; and on the question of law on the ground that the respondents and appellant having agreed together for the purchase of the Port Arthur business by the appellant for the sum of \$25,000 upon the basis that the assets of the said business were valued at \$37,300 whereas in truth and in fact the assets were valued at \$27,700 only there was no consideration for the payment by the appellant to the respondents of the sum of \$1,000 which was mentioned in the document sued upon or of any sum or sums of money whatever other than certain sums aggregating \$16,000 which the respondents had already prior to the commencement of the action received from the appellant.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor), appeared for the appellant.

The puisne Judge asked if the costs ordered to be paid into Court in the case had been paid in? Otherwise the appellant could not proceed.

Hon. Mr. Pollock said part of the costs had been paid, but not all. However, that could not affect the right of appeal though it would apply to the question of execution.

The Puisne Judge replied that he had no right to appeal until he had paid his costs. His Lordship would not have stayed execution if he had known the costs were not to be paid. The whole case had been a job from beginning to end and he had been treated by the appellants in a manner he did not like.

The Chief Justice asked Mr. Brutton if the costs were going to be paid in?

Mr. Brutton replied that they would.

The Puisne Judge—Then pay them in at once. I have told you, Mr. Brutton, over and over again about this case.

The Chief Justice remarked that they had had the benefit of the stay of execution and yet had not paid the money into Court. Would the costs be paid in before Saturday?

Mr. Brutton—Yes, your Lordship, I will pay them in to-morrow.

The hearing of the motion was adjourned till Monday, the 2nd November, and the Court rose.

A BREACH OF THE HARBOUR REGULATIONS.

At the Harbour Office on Monday, the Hon. Basil R. H. Taylor, Harbour Master, held an enquiry into the circumstances connected with a charge of negligent navigation preferred by Mr. J. J. Stubbings, of the Hongkong Electric Co., owner of the yacht *Dart*, against Sze Fook, Certificate No. 939, master of the licensed steam-launch *Cheong Yuen*.

Mr. Stubbings deposed that on Sunday, 11th inst., he slipped from moorings off A King's slipway at 10.15 a.m., and came up the harbour along the central fairway. There was a good breeze, and he sailed out to Stonecutters. He was in the bows and he saw the launch on the starboard beam. He warned the steersman and they went on. Seeing the launch was not giving way, he starboarded; she was about 50 to 60 yards off then, and standing across the yacht's bows at an angle of about 45 degs. She still showed no signs of giving way, and blew two short blasts on her siren and kept starboard on. He then put his helm hard down and brought his vessel right round to port, passing under the stern of the launch. Had he not acted he must have run right into the launch.

Sze Fook, coxswain of the *Cheong Yuen*, said he had been in the launch for over a year. He was at the stern at the time having chow. The assistant coxswain was steering; he had no certificate. Witness saw the yacht and ran to the wheel, but was too late to do anything. He blew a long blast on the siren.

His Honour suspended Sze Fook's certificate for three months.

THE HONGKONG CRICKET TEAM.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

* Shanghai, 15th October.

The overnight not outs, A. E. Lanning (20) and Turnbull (41), resumed their innings to the bowling of Lumsden and Dixon. Both batsmen started cautiously, and after two or three maiden overs Lumsden clean bowled Lanning. McEuen came in, only to share the same fate three balls later. Tyack followed, but before many runs had been added he was caught in the slips by Bird off Cooper. Dew was the newcomer, and began by hitting Dixon to leg for 4, but shortly afterwards Turnbull, who had been very quiet, was run out in attempting a risky third run. He had made 51 in good style. Farbridge did not stay long, being caught off Cooper by Bird for 0, and V. H. Lanning filled the vacancy. Dew meanwhile had been very severe on Dixon, and in one over hit 3 "fourers" off him. This necessitated a change in the attack, Bird replacing Dixon. A really serviceable stand was now made, the batsmen hitting hard and being helped by luck, as Dew was missed in the deep field by Smith, and later Lanning should have been caught by Pearce at long slip. However, after adding about 50 runs, Lanning was magnificently thrown out by Pearce, who dashed in, gathered the ball, and returned it at express speed, the ball striking the wickets. Lanning had made a plucky 31. Billings was soon out l.b.w. to Bird, and Jackson, the last man, came in. Dew had meanwhile been hitting merrily, and a separation could not be effected before tiffin, Jackson being content to keep up his end while Dew hit. The score at the interval was 180 for 9. On resuming, Dew added a few runs to his score, and Jackson played steadily, but the end soon came when Pearce bowled Jackson, the score standing at 191. Hongkong thus won a memorable Interport match by the very handsome margin of an innings and 23 runs. Dew had played exceedingly well, though a trifle lucky, and his stand with Lanning was the feature of the innings.

The Hongkong eleven were heartily cheered on returning to the pavilion.

* Delayed in transmission.

On the 13th inst., the Hon. W. T. Taylor, Colonial Secretary of the Malay Federated States and Singapore, took the oath, administered by Sir Lionel Cox, Chief Justice, on the former's assuming the duties of Acting Governor, or, as the position is officially styled, Officer Administering the Government.

THE INTERPORT LAWN TENNIS.

The Interport lawn tennis doubles were played at the Country Club, Shanghai, on the 16th inst. and, as we have already heard, ended in a victory for Hongkong by three sets to one. Owing to the fact that neither Mr. N. Ramsay, the holder nor Mr. W. A. Turnbull, the runner-up for Shanghai's Championship this year, were well enough to play, Messrs. C. Biron and E. Buxton Forman met the brothers Hancock, who represented us.

Hongkong led off by winning the first three games, through the last only came after "douce" had been thrice called. The next two went easily to Shanghai, and then, after Hongkong had brought the games up to 4-2, Shanghai went right ahead and pulled off the set by 6-4.

Set two opened with another game to the Shanghai couple, but then came four successive games to Hongkong, who finished off the set with the score in their favour at 6-2.

With the match score at one all, a terrific struggle ensued for the third set. The Messrs. Hancock had the sun in their eyes, and their opponents, playing smartly together, picking up cleanly and placing the ball swiftly and accurately, forged ahead till the score stood at 5-3 in their favour. At this stage they seemed to lose something of their nerve, while the Hongkong couple, playing perfectly together, never in each other's way, always on the ball, and bringing off the most amazing returns, crept steadily up. The scores drew level at five-all, entailing a long game. Six-all followed and seven-all, the games being won from service; but the next two went to Hongkong, and with them the set. Score: 9-7.

After this the visitors had all the best of matters and the fourth was the final set. Twice the Shanghai men rallied superbly, but the point went in each case to Hongkong, who ran out by 6-1, and thus won the match by three games to one.

Mr. N. B. Ramsay umpired. The victory for Hongkong, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, was won principally on superior combination, their judgment was also in general better, and something was undoubtedly gained by playing in flannels. Mr. Buxton Forman was the better of the home couple, placing with wonderful accuracy right on the line again and again, and getting a tremendous screw on the ball. Mr. Biron's chief fault was putting the ball into the net instead of just over, but in any other than a championship match his would have been a good exhibition.

IMPERIAL RIFLE MATCH.

On Wednesday afternoon the Hongkong Rifle Association team shot off the Imperial Rifle Match at Kowloon Range. Lieut. W. Nicholson, H.K.V.C., and Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, J.P., were the umpires, and Mr. Mowbray S. Northcote looked after the arrangements with satisfaction to all concerned. Mr. E. Denner was in charge of the butts. Appended is the score:—

	200	500	600	Total
R. Lapsley	29	34	33	96
Sapper MacEwen, R.E.	32	31	32	95
Sergt. Thornhill	33	31	31	95
Sapper Robertson, R.E.	32	23	30	90
J. Pidgeon	31	24	32	87
Col.-Sergt. Cross, R.M.L.I.	32	24	30	87
A. Watson	29	28	27	84
Sergt. Pitt	30	28	26	84
Col.-Sergt. Randal	30	31	22	83
R. Stewart	28	26	19	73
Totals	306	286	282	
Grand Total				874

Two wealthy native merchants in Hankow intend to subscribe Tls. 500,000 between them and prospect for another similar amount from Chinese shareholders as capital to start an electric light and waterworks company in that city. A petition applying for the right has been sent to the Waiwupu through the Acting Viceroy of Hupeh. It is said that machinery and plant will be purchased as soon as permission has been received, and over Tls. 100,000 have already been subscribed by prospective shareholders.

BOXING CONTEST AT THE CITY HALL.

On the 22nd inst. a boxing tournament promoted by Mr. Jas. Christie took place at the City Hall, the main event being a twenty-round contest between Sam Newman of America and Jones of the *Amphitrite*. There was a large attendance. Several good preliminary bouts were given. Cohen and Maryatt of the Derbyshire Regiment gave a three rounds exhibition. Russell and Garrod of the *Amphitrite* put up a six-round bout of which Russell had the best and Russell issued a challenge to box any man in China at 8st. 6lbs. in ten rounds. A fast fight was witnessed between Johnstone of the *Amphitrite* and Barrett, R.E., for a decision in ten rounds. Mr. Jas. Christie, who was referee, gave his decision in favour of Johnstone. The next contest was between Emerton of the *Humber* and Moir of the A.O.C. Emerton enhanced his reputation as a light-weight slogger by knocking his man out in the first round.

Then preparations were made for the event of the evening. Newman when he entered the ring looked the fitter man of the two, notwithstanding Jones's superior height and reach, and he justified his appearances. In the first round Jones was downed, and just saved himself on the count. In the second round he came up groggy, and was knocked through the ropes. Newman punished him right and left and in the middle of the third round knocked him out completely. Jones made a poor fight of it and never had a chance. Mr. J. D. Logan acted as time-keeper, and Mr. W. B. Waters as M.C.

FOOTBALL.

A Rugby practice game was played by the H.K.F.C. at their ground on Wednesday afternoon. Some promising players were brought out, and the Football Club should be able to get together a strong fifteen this season.

At the Happy Valley on Wednesday afternoon the newly-formed Y.M.C.A. Football Club met a team from the *Tamar*. The result was four goals to one in favour of the latter. J. Witchell of the Y.M.C.A. sustained an injury to his ankle.

The following is the result of the six-a-side competition of the H.K.F.C.:—

	Won.	Lost	Drawn	Points.
Danby's team	5	0	1	11
Brent's	4	0	2	10
Worcester's	2	2	2	6
Kew's	1	2	3	5
Clark's	1	3	2	4
Bonnar's	1	3	2	4
Wolfe's	0	4	2	2

THE ENGLAND V. SCOTLAND GOLF MATCH.

The following is the full score of the above match, played on Sunday, of which we published the result—and the team on Monday.

SINGLES.			
C. E. H. Beavis	6	W. W. Clark	0
E. J. Grist	1	Gershom Stewart	—1
C. W. May	2	J. Johnstone	—2
C. A. Parker	—3	Capt. H. Crichton	3
H. Pinckney	—2	Murray Stewart	2
E. Deacon	—1	W. M. Anderson	1
Capt. Phillips	3	W. W. Ross	—3
Lieut. R. Dowding	3	J. Stodart	—3
J. E. Lee	—1	P. B. Scott	1
H. Hunter	—1	H. W. Robertson	1
N. B. Smith	—1	Capt. J. Douglas	1
C. H. Grace	—2	K. McK. Ross	2
N. J. Stabb	1	Major Gordon Cumming	—1
Capt. F. Radford	2	W. J. Gresson	—2
Dr. Grazebrook	—2	Dr. Gibson	2
	—1		1
FOURSOMES.			
Beavis and Grist	—2	Clark & G. Stewart	1
May and Parker	—3	Johnstone & Crichton	2
Pinckney & Deacon	—2	M. Stewart & Anderson	2
Phillips & Dowding	1	Ross and Stodart	—3
Lee and Hunter	—3	Scott and Robertson	3
Smith and Grace	—1	Douglas and Ross	1
Stabb and Radford	2	G. Cumming & Gresson	—2
Drs. Drew & Grazebrook	3	Taylor & Dr. Gibson	—3
	—5		5

The points were reckoned thus:—2 for a match and 1 for a bye. Thus winning the match and bye meant 3 points, winning the match and losing the bye 1 point.

THE STRAITS IN 1902-3.

The following excerpts are made from H.E. Sir Frank Swettenham's speech in introducing the Estimates in the Legislative Council at Singapore on the 10th inst.:-

TRADE.

The total value of imports in 1902 amounted to about 351½ million dollars and of exports to nearly 301½ millions, thus making the aggregate value of the trade 653 million dollars—an increase of 76 millions, or 13 per cent. over 1901. If, however, specie is excluded, the increase is only 56½ million dollars, or, nearly 10½ per cent. in advance of the previous year. This increase is satisfactory, but owing to the fall in exchange, the equivalent sterling values show a decrease of nearly 3½ per cent. in imports and 1½ per cent. in exports. The value of the trade for the first half of the current year shows an increase of more than 41 million dollars, or £2,090,000 over the corresponding period of 1902. This increase is mainly due to the enhanced values in the imports of rice, opium, cotton piece goods, &c., and in the exports of sago, tin, copra, gambier, hides, and rattans. The most important decreases are in the exports of gutta-percha and white pepper. The shipping of this Port has continued to increase, the total tonnage entered (exclusive of warships and transports) during the first half of this year being 2,925,711 tons as against 2,813,332 tons for the same period of 1902—an increase of 109,379 tons. The British tonnage has increased by 144,818 tons, while the foreign has decreased by 35,439 tons.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Owing mainly to the prevalence of zymotic disease the death-rate in the Colony increased from 39.85 in 1901 to 42.96 in 1902. In Singapore 842 cases of cholera were reported, 759, proving fatal. Ninety-two cases, with 67 deaths, occurred in Penang and Province Wellesley. Four sporadic cases of plague occurred in Singapore. Smallpox existed in Malacca constantly throughout the year, but the disease never reached serious proportions. During the present year plague was introduced into Singapore by immigrant ships from China. Prompt measures were taken to check the disease and the outbreak did not spread beyond the Quarantine Station at St. John's Island. Provision has been made for a Resident Medical Officer on this Island, and also for the carrying out of certain desirable special services in connection with quarantine. Extensive improvements have already been executed and others are in progress.

IMMIGRATION.

In 1902 the number of immigrants from Southern India continued to show a large falling off, being 20,242 as against 28,258 in 1901. This important question of labour has received the careful consideration of Government, and representatives from the Colony and the Federated Malay States visited India at the end of last year to enquire into and report on the matter. A bill dealing with the subject has, as you know, been considered in this Council and has been referred to the Government of India. It is hoped that the proposed higher rates of wages and the improved system of recruiting will ultimately have the effect of introducing a larger and better class of coolies, but at present the supply of indentured labour from Madras has been practically cut off. The Government proposes to give the Madura Company a virtual monopoly of recruiting for this Colony and the Federated Malay States, but up to the present the old recruiting agents, who made large profits out of the business, have proved sufficiently strong to retard the success of the scheme. The sugar-planters, owing to the failure in the supply from Madras, have been trying to get coolies from Java and Bengal.

The number of Chinese immigrants in 1902 was 207,156 as against 178,778 in 1901, this large increase being in a measure due to the famine in China. During the present year immigration has been restricted owing to quarantine on account of plague.

CURRENCY.

The important question of fixity of exchange has, as you know, been carefully considered by a Committee appointed by the Colonial Office and the printed correspondence on the subject, together with the report of the Committee, has

been laid before you. The minting of the new Straits dollars is in progress, and shipments of British dollars are being made to India weekly for re-minting. The first consignment of the new dollars has already been received and put into circulation. The import of Mexican and British trade dollars, except from the Federated Malay States and Johore, has been stopped, as has also the export of Straits dollars. You have already voted a sum of \$150,000 to meet the charges to be incurred on this account during the current year and the necessary further provision has been made in the Estimates for 1904. The cost, which will be considerable, will be shared by the Federated Malay States. We are only at the commencement of operations and it is difficult to prophesy the exact course or length of time which must elapse before we arrive at our goal, but I am confident that we shall, without undue delay, attain to that fixity of exchange which legitimate commerce requires.

HONGKONG.

H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., visited Victoria Gaol on Thursday morning.

The funeral took place at Happy Valley on Thursday of Captain Peter Schlyder, of the Norwegian s.s. *Aggi*. He died at the Government Civil Hospital.

It will be seen from the announcement under the heading of "Marriages" in another column that Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, on the 15th ult. married Miss A. M. Russell, whose father was the late Mr. John Russell, of Limerick. Mr. Brewin and his bride return to the Colony next month.

Members of the V.R.C. will be unanimous in their regret at losing the services of their popular Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank White, who is going to Manila next week. There is not time enough before his departure to mark the long and good services that Mr. White has rendered to the Club, but doubtless when he returns opportunity will be taken by the members to get up a testimonial. Mr. H. C. Austen, of Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., succeeds Mr. White.

As the mail steamer *Bengal* did not put in an appearance at her appointed hour—daylight—on Thursday morning, somewhat of uneasiness was beginning to be felt, and rumours and surmises were rife as to her having dipped her nose into a peripatetic typhoon, but her appearance, entering the harbour, shortly before noon, allayed all fears, and a call on board by a representative of the *Daily Press* elicited the fact that the *Bengal* met with nothing worse from the elements than somewhat rough seas between Singapore and this port, while the voyage altogether had been entirely without incident.

Returning about midnight on Wednesday from a visit to his friends at Yaumati, a Chinese fireman on the *Tsinan*, which is lying at the Cosmopolitan Dock, was stopped by three Chinese, one of whom, it is alleged, asked him to return some money he had lent him some time previously. The fireman said he did not know the men, and owed them no money. On this he was savagely assaulted, in the course of which he received a slash from a clasp-knife in the abdomen, inflicting a frightful wound. His assailants then decamped, and the fireman managed to crawl to the Cosmopolitan Dock, where he was found by an European and conveyed to hospital in a critical condition.

On the accusation of being concerned in the assault and robbery of Miss A. M. Bateman and her amah, on the 16th ult., Ng Muk carpenter, Chan Chung, carpenter and Lui Ngau, cook, appeared on remand before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith on Tuesday. Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent of Police, said he wished formally to withdraw the charge against Ng Muk who was accordingly discharged. Mr. Wodehouse then applied to have the charges against Chan Chung and Lui Ngau taken separately. After studying the law on the point, His Worship said he should like to have an authority on the matter, and would grant an adjournment until Friday to permit of arguments being adduced. This was agreed to by the prosecution.

H.M.S. *Glory* arrived in the Harbour on Thursday evening from Singapore.

One fatal Chinese plague case was reported during the day ending at noon on the 17th inst., the locality being Caine Road.

The Hongkong cricket team, returning from their triumphant visit to Shanghai, reached Hongkong Harbour yesterday on the *Coromandel*, soon after daylight.

Hongkong will offer hearty congratulations to Lord Donoughmore on his elevation to the post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the War Office.

In the match between the V. R. C. Football Club and "G" Co. Sherwood Foresters at Causeway Bay last Saturday the V. R. C. lost by 4 goals to 1.

Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant W. Higby, R.G.A., has been appointed Sergeant-Major of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, on probation, vice Sergeant-Major Power.

On Thursday the despatch-boat *Alacrity* arrived from Singapore. H.M. storeship *Humber* has arrived from Shanghai, and the *Blenheim*, first class cruiser, is on the way down from Weihaiwei.

Mr. Arathoon Seth, Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, has been appointed to act as Registrar of the Supreme Court with effect from the 15th instant and until further notice.

The man Ng Muk, who was discharged, is the person identified by Miss Bateman and her amah. With the arrest of Chan Chung and Lui Ngau evidence has come to light which clears Ng Muk from the implication.

The official return of communicable diseases in Hongkong, for the week ending the 17th instant, shows 2 cases of plague among the Chinese only, and one case of enteric fever among the Europeans. The total number of cases of plague in Hongkong since the 1st of January last shows 1,416 cases, and 1,243 deaths.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to approve of the following promotions in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps:—Lieut. J. H. W. Armstrong to be Captain, vice Captain Grieva resigned; Lieut. T. Skinner to be Captain, vice Captain Underwood resigned; Company Sergt.-Major J. A. T. Plumer to be Lieutenant, vice Lieut. Armstrong promoted; Sergeant J. D. Danby to be Lieutenant, vice Lieut. Skinner promoted.

At the Criminal Sessions on Monday, it was stated that two Chinese workmen who had robbed their master, a jeweller, of some valuables, had been tracked to Canton and brought back here by the wife of the prosecutor. It was more by moral suasion than physical force, no doubt, that the wife effected her purpose, but, as Sir Henry Berkeley remarked, she would be a valuable acquisition to the Hongkong detective department.

We are pleased to be able to confirm the statement made by *O Patriota* of the appointment of Senhor J. J. Leiria as Vice Consul for Portugal at Hongkong. This appointment was officially announced in the *Government Gazette* on Saturday. We understand that this honour was bestowed on Senhor Leiria by the Portuguese Government as a further mark of recognition for gratuitous and invaluable services rendered by him to the Consulate in this Colony for many years. Senhor Leiria has already been decorated with the order of Knight Commander of Christ for similar services.

The Boston Steamship Company's new boat, the *Shawmut*, arrived in this port on Wednesday morning, and was visited by a representative of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, as she lay lying majestically at her moorings in the harbour. The *Shawmut* is one of the largest cargo steamers trading in these waters, being of 18,000 tons, but she has lately undergone extensive alterations, in the course of which a considerable amount of accommodation was added to cope with the ever-increasing passenger-traffic across the blue waters of the Pacific, and owing to this she has now accommodation for one hundred first and second saloon passengers, and as she is almost entirely free from that motion which is the cause of *mal-de-mer*, when travelling over moderate seas, she may be classed as an ideal means of transit for passengers not too accustomed to the sea and its vagaries.

Under the auspices of the Union Church Literary Club, the Rev. T. W. Pearce delivered interesting lecture on Thursday night on the "Curiosities of Controversy."

Thieves and wrongdoers receive sentences of an exhibition in the stocks not only as a punishment, but also in order to furnish an example to others of the same fraternity. This does not always seem to act immediately. On Monday afternoon, while three of the highway robbers at West Point were on view in the stocks, with a laughing crowd gathered round, an incorrigible native improved the occasion by cutting out the pocket of a spectator, and appropriating the contents; but he was caught in the act.

Many residents who witnessed the procession through Queen's Road to the Police Court on Tuesday of a gang of coolies, escorted by numerous police, must have thought a rising had taken place at East Point, and they would not have been very far wrong, as the coolies did rise—from their sleep under the stars when a posse of police rudely disturbed them. On Tuesday morning sixteen more or less able-bodied men lined up before the Magistrate awaiting sentence for not having the wherewithal to purchase a meal and a bed—"rogues and vagabonds" is the police definition. Mr. Sercombe Smith ordered them all three hours in the stocks. Unfortunately, after the three hours in the stocks, sixteen out-of-works must again be "rogues and vagabonds." In connection with the carrying-out of the above sentence, a difficulty arose—there were only four sets of stocks in the colony.

We are glad to see that the Senior Magistrate, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, is with us in our views as to how a remedy might be effected in the overcrowded condition of the gaol. In a larceny case which came before the Magistrate on Monday morning, it transpired that the accused had arrived in the colony from Canton only a few days ago. The reason why we have been favoured with his company was put down by His Worship to the undesired attentions of a mandarin, who "chased him away from Canton." After passing sentence of one month's hard labour, Mr. Sercombe Smith opened his mind on the subject:—"You have only been in the colony a few days, and the first thing we have to do is to provide you with comfortable quarters. If I could give you a flogging, I would do it with pleasure: it is the only punishment fit for you." This practically bears out what we have written previously on the subject—that Hongkong should not be made the prison-house of South China, offering habitual criminals from Kwangtung the invitation of good board and lodging, with splendid opportunities for some more plunder on the expiry of their prison visit.

Since last June the Government of China has been quiescent in the matter of Reformers; but that it has not put these men entirely out of view has now been instanced in Hongkong. Kang Yu-wei, it will be remembered, almost fell into the trap laid for him by the astute officials. In June a telegram was supposed to have been sent to Kang in exile at Darjiling, recalling him to service under his Government. The plot fell through, as the Reformer was turned back by Hongkong friends on reaching this port. Nothing having resulted from the showing-up of Chinese methods of putting a closure on the reform movement, of which the Gage Street murder is a case in point, emissaries have now arrived from Canton with instructions to take the lives of three Chinese known to be keen supporters of Reform. It would not, of course, be politic to give the names of those wanted, but we may state that they are well-known locally, and are engaged in business here. Sums amounting to \$140,000 are to be paid as rewards, besides decorations—as in the case of one of the gang concerned in the murder of Yueng Ku-wan, the schoolmaster. The police are keeping a keen look out, we believe, for an attempt on the lives of the Reformers, and may be trusted to make things uncomfortable for suspicious characters.

Two saloon dining-cars of the Wagon Lite Company will be running between Peking and Newchwang about the end of this month. They are coming out by sea.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Calcutta telegram of the 4th inst. says that latest advices from the Tibet Frontier Commission state that owing to recent developments at the front Sir Claude White arrived at Gangtok on his way to Darjeeling. Colonel Younghusband was still at Kamba Jong.

\$8,109,430, Mexican currency, have been exported from the Philippine Islands to date by latest advices. It is estimated that there is another \$4,000,000 in the Islands, all of which it is expected will have been exported before January 1st, 1904, on which date they cease to be legal tender in the Islands.

Alan Strachan, a native of Scotland, and a marine engineer of Iloilo, Philippine Islands, died on the 9th inst. at the General Hospital, Yokohama, as the result of a self-inflicted wound with a razor. He had a successful business in Iloilo, and as he was not in any financial trouble, and apparently quite sane, no reason is known for his strange, and, perhaps, rash act. The deceased was 54 years of age.

Sugar, writes the Acting Commissioner of Customs in his report on the trade of Newchwang, "is certainly becoming more popular in Southern Manchuria. An interesting point arises whether the sugar-beet could be grown in Manchuria. So far the three provinces produce no sugar, and a fine field offers to the Hongkong refineries." Doubtless the local refineries will take a note of this.

In the course of the enquiry into the cause of the outbreak of fire on the s.s. *Saikio Maru*, near Bokuren, Japan, some flagrant cases of false declarations of cargo were discovered. Cases said to contain dried mushrooms were found to also contain matches, and other cases were found to contain oil paper, though they were not declared as such. Oil paper is often subject to spontaneous combustion, and is recognised as a dangerous article of cargo. The shippers of these goods have been prosecuted for their wrong declarations.

We learn on what we believe to be reliable authority that the Russo-Chinese Bank are contemplating the establishment of several branches in the interior. This is not the first we have heard of this, but until now we have dismissed the report as a mere fable. We are now assured, however, that the intention actually exists, although there is nothing in the treaties which can justify what is a purely foreign bank in spite of its name, establishing agencies in the interior of China. The proposed localities would, as far as we can gather, command all the principal trade routes; but this may be mere accident.—*P. & T. Times*.

H.E. Viceroy Shun, according to the *N. C. Daily News*, recently sent the following telegram to the Waiwupu—I have strongly reinforced the garrison stationed at the treaty ports of Wuchow and Lungchow, and have also detailed a strong fleet of well-armed gunboats to cruise in the vicinity to prevent any meditated attacks on the said treaty ports on the part of the rebels and bandits. Wuchow and Lungchow are therefore well protected against harm, and there is not the slightest necessity for the French near Lungchow to send guards there to protect their merchants and traders. I have also notified the French Consul-General to the above effect, and I must request Your Excellencies to do the same towards H.E. the French Minister in your capital.

M. Beau, Governor-General of French Indo-China, visited French Laos last month. During his stay at the agency of the Messageries Fluviales at Pakse, M. Simon, the Director, made a speech in the course of which he said: "The opposite bank is still Siamese, but we have reason to-day to believe that in a short time you, *M. le Gouverneur-General*, will have the honour of proclaiming the right bank of the Mekong, French. I drink to the pacific conquest of the territories of the setting sun, to the industrial and commercial prosperity of the valley of the French Mekong." In reply M. Beau said: "In drinking to the francisation of the two banks of the Mekong, I drink at the same time to the prosperity of the Messageries Fluviales." They are evidently confident about the ratification of the treaty in Laos, says the *Bangkok Times*, and though it does not apply to more than a section of the right bank, it is perhaps the section desired.

A contradiction was made from Paris last month of the rumour that France is about to send naval reinforcements to the Far East.

Singapore waters must have a great attraction for the dwellers in the deep. Following on the story of the appearance of the Sea Serpent in those waters comes the report of an influx of turtles, one being described as a monster, which was captured by Sergeant Wilson of the marines.

According to the *Japan Mail*, Newchwang telegraphs that the 8th inst. brought no change in its condition. The streets still continued to be patrolled by parties of Russian soldiers, and the Taotai, Li Ping-san, was quietly residing in Kinchan, evidently entertaining no expectation that the day appointed by treaty for the end of Russian military occupation and for the restoration of the administration to China would be marked by the fulfilment of either promise.

The *China Times* says that letters have been received from Port Arthur giving the details of the affair of the steamship *Stanley Dollar*. It appears that the steamer had been engaged for six months to convey lumber from the Russian concession on the Yalu. She made her first trip to Yong-ampho, and was taking on cargo when a Japanese gunboat entered the river and found her there. The commander of the gunboat informed the captain that Yong-ampho was not an open port and that his ship had no right to take cargo there. The captain of the *Stanley Dollar* feared complications and telegraphed to his employers that the Japanese objected to his enterprise. After some urging he finally took on the cargo and discharged it at Dalny. He refused, however, to continue in the work, and would not return to the Yalu. The *Kobe Chronicle* considers it extraordinary that nothing of this seems to be known to the authorities in Japan.

A law has been issued by the Formosan Government, prohibiting the importation into Formosa of *gassen* (a spurious Chinese copper coin with a square hole in the centre) on and after the 1st April next. Another law has been enacted by which spurious silver imported into Formosa is rendered liable to the imposition of a duty equal to 5 per cent. of the value of the silver. This law also comes into force on and after the 1st April next. Hitherto, it seems, spurious silver coins from China have been largely circulated in Formosa. The increasing confidence placed in the notes of the Bank of Formosa is, however, gradually checking the circulation of inferior silver, but the value of such silver imported from China still amounts to some 8,000,000 yen a year, and this of course is most unsatisfactory, as it tends seriously to affect the public confidence regarding the genuine article. Although nothing is definitely stated, it is to be presumed that the circulation of spurious coins will become illegal when the new law in regard to coins comes into force; otherwise, those responsible for the coining in China will be busy between now and April next.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

A curious case is pending in the Court at San Fernando de la Union, P.I., according to the *Manila Times*, as the outcome of the notorious Tompkins forgery case. It appears that Tompkins had a staunch friend in one Lieutenant Chauncy McGovern, and the latter determined to do all in his power to aid his friend on his trial. He was accordingly called as a witness, as, in fact, an expert on handwriting, and on the witness-stand stated that he had been called as such expert in the celebrated Dreyfus case, the Molineux murder case, the Fair will case, and in many other *causes célèbres*. The court regarded the youthful officer with wonder, but, he being an officer, and, presumably, a gentleman, and being under oath, the court believed him, and his evidence might have materially benefited his friend had he been endowed with a little more discretion, and the power to keep his mouth shut. Unfortunately he was devoid of these qualities, for as soon as he left the court he began to laugh with his friends over his story in the witness box, saying that it was all a joke, and that he merely told the yarn in the hope of getting his friend off. But Attorney-General G. P. Harvey was standing near and heard the foolish young man's confession, and Lieutenant McGovern is now under bond of \$1,000, gold, to stand his trial for perjury.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

A correspondent of the Kobe Chronicle states that the tea trade of Japan seems to be destined to undergo a great change. The great importance of preserving the natural aroma and other qualities of the tea leaf by speedy re-firing after picking and the first process of rolling and curing, will naturally lead to the establishment of tea-firing godowns in the centre of the tea-producing districts. As already predicted, it is probable that in a short time the Yokohama tea market with its re-firing premises will remove to Shidzuoka and neighbourhood. In Kobe the conditions are somewhat different, as small lots of lowgrade teas are sent here from various districts whose production does not warrant the establishment of independent re-firing premises, as a great many teas are mixed together in Kobe so as to make one line of tea suitable for export. The gradual advance in the value of land in Kobe makes it little wonder that some exporting firms contemplate removing their re-firing premises to the interior districts. The total or partial removal of tea-firing godowns from Kobe, and the general adoption of machinery in lieu of hand labour will bring about a serious change in the labour conditions of this city. Many of the coolie class, chiefly women, are dependent on the tea-firing trade, and as far as I can see there will be no occupation for these poor people when this particular work is taken from them. This is a serious question confronting the labouring classes, but, even if the tea-firing godowns remain in Kobe, machinery will inevitably take the place of the present hand labour. Several foreign firms are already reported as having decided to adopt machinery in time for the coming season. The cheapness of land in the interior, and the cheapness of labour would so reduce the producing cost if tea-firing godowns were removed that Japan would be able to compete with Ceylon and India in its tea. The better quality to be obtained by immediate re-firing will also greatly enhance its advantages on the market, and enable it to hold its own with other competitors.

FOOCHOW, October 16th.—The Settlements of the past week are 3,183 half chests Congous, 1,057 half chests Souchongs, and 2,087 boxes of scented teas. The export to date, per consignees returns, is compared below with the export for the corresponding period last year:—

	1903-4	1902-3
Great Britain	3,812,461 lbs.	3,841,161 lbs.
Australia & N.Z.	1,406,095 "	1,012,749 "
United States and Canada	1,704,558 "	8,053,473 "
Continent of Europe	4,179,390 "	4,224,353 "
South Africa	564,300 "	1,016,422 "
The Customs Returns show a total export this season of 20,433,073 lbs.		

HANKOW, 7th October.—The entire business to date, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, is estimated as under:—

	1903.	1902.
	4-chts.	4-chts.
For London, America and European Continent..	194,632	147,105
For Russia	532,140	507,000
	726,772	654,105

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1903-4	1902-3
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	—	—
Canton	—	—
Hankow	6,326,476	8,058,897
	6,326,476	8,058,897

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1903	1902
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	34,233,540	29,221,123

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1903-4	1902-3
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	—	—
Hongo	—	—
Hankow	5,526,231	4,180,371
	5,526,231	4,180,371

SILK.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son's Circular of 15th October reports, as follows:—The home markets are unchanged. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 13/-. Raw Silk.—A settlement of 20 bales Buffalo (3 at Tls. 680) is the only transaction recorded in Tsatlees. This price marks a decline to Tls. 20 per picul, but the rise in Exchange renders the laying down cost no cheaper. Yellow Silks continue in demand and very high prices are being paid. Hand Filatures.—A few settlements are recorded in Ordinary reels but the market is slack. Steam Filatures.—Scarcely anything doing, the market is easy. Waste Silk.—Market strong, and good Honan II. has been taken at Tls. 46. We hear that 400 piculs Honan I. have been sold at Tls. 132½, 135 and 135½ Shantung B; whole bales at Tls. 41.

CANTON, 22nd September.—Export: Re-reels.—We hear of no fresh business in this class beyond a small sale of 5 Bales each Nos. 1, 2, Yee Wo Hing's White Ticket at \$85. Filatures have given place to comparatively few transactions. Reelers refuse to give way to any appreciable extent, remaining firm on an average of \$20/30 per picul above the ideas of buyers, and being relieved from immediate pressure to sell by advances obtained from exporters against a portion of their holdings. Sales made during the fortnight include, Quan Wo On 9/11 and Miu King Lon 11/13 at \$930, King Seng 11/13 at \$950, Po King Yuen and U Han Cheong 10/12 at \$925, Mei Lun Hing 10/12 at \$915, Shun Kee and Kwong Ho 12/14 at \$880, Wai King Wo 18/22 at \$820. In "Native" filatures the demand has run entirely on full sizes, in which a fair business has been done at \$770/735 for Best 3e Order 14/18, 18/22. Bon 3e 14/18 has sold at \$755/750. Short-reels.—Have ruled dull with very small transactions, and may be quoted slightly weaker at the close. Sales of about 100 Bales and rep rted at \$875/880 for Yu Wo Cheong, Man Po Cheong and equivalent; while higher grades have not been dealt in. Waste Silk.—Business has been almost entirely checked by the inflated condition of prices in the interior. Native speculators practically control the stock, and subjoined quotations are as near as can be given in the present state of the market.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1902-3	1901-2
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	64,516	27,013
	64,516	27,013

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA & JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1902-3	1901-2
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	57,911	44,396
	57,911	44,396

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.60 to \$8.65 pels.
Do. " 2, White..... 7.60 to 7.65 "
Do. No. 1, Brown..... 6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.75 to 5.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.45 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White..... 7.55 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.50 to 12.50 "
Shekloong "10.55 to 10.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—A further decline in prices is reported, market continuing weak. Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.95 to \$3.00
" Round, Good quality..... 4.70 to 4.75
" Long..... 4.95 to 5.00
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2..... 3.50 to 3.55
" Garden, " No. 1..... 4.00 to 4.05
" White, 4.80 to 4.85
" Fine Cargo..... 5.10 to 5.15

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st October.—

Quotations are:—	Allowance net.	to 1 catty.
Malwa New	\$940	to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$985	to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1,040	to — do.
Malwa A. Old	\$1,080	to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$330	to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$340	to — do.
Patna New	\$1,100	to — per chest.
Patna Old	—	to — do.
Benares New	\$1,100	to — do.
Benares Old	—	to — do.

HONGKONG, 22nd October.—The movements in the opium markets have been as follows:

Stocks on 8th inst., 1903.	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Oct. 9th Imports per Malla	1,012	1,952	661	2,231
" 12, " " Bangal	341	300	100	184
" 13, " " Lightning	300	15	—	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,002	2,247	762	2,420
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	117	103	230	—
	243	721	164	510

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,372 1,443 303 1,910
Bengal.—The market continues steady @ \$1,100 for both Patna and Benares. Bargains 804 chests.
Malwa.—The demand is on a small scale and prices have declined as follows:—

New	\$ 940
2/3 Years old	980
4/5	1,040
Oldest	1,070

Persian.—A fair amount of business has been done in good Square cakes @ \$761/770, long cakes @ \$810/840.

BEANS.

NEWCHWANG, 10th October. Messrs. Bandine & Co state:—The new crop of Beans is said to be much larger than that of 1901 and 1902; and the quality of early arrivals leaves nothing to be desired. Stocks are small—about 5,000 piculs old and the same quantities new arrive daily; but large supplies of new are expected between the 20th and 25th inst. Freighters are dull but may improve next week when merchants are securing tonnage for the last two trips. Export prices are weak:—

Bean Cakes per 10 pieces	Tls. 7.90
Bean Oil per picul	7.40
Beans per 3 piculs, Old	6.55
" New	6.90

According to "old Custom" the Chinese will beach most of their cargo-boats for the winter about the 23rd November, and it is not unlikely that there will be floating ice in harbour before the 30th.

COAL.

HONGKONG, 24th October.—The coal expected is 5,000 tons Welsh (for sale), 29,000 tons of Japanese (sold), and 3,000 tons of Hongkong (sold). Arrivals since the 10th inst. have totalled 62,500 tons—all Japanese coal, with the exception of 4,000 tons of Hongky. No sales of importance are reported and the market is dull at the following quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$19.50 to \$21.00 ex-ship offering.
Australian ...	11.00 " sellers.
Yubari Lump	12.00 " nominal.
Milki Lump..	10.00 " Godown sales.
Moji Lump...	6.50 to 10.00 " ex-ship, weak.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd Oct.—A limited business has been done. Unsold about 1,500 bales.

Bombay.....	23.50 to 24.50 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon } and Dacca.....	23.50 to 26.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese,	28.0 to 29.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	28.00 to 29.00 "

YARN.

Mr. P. Edujee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 23rd October:—The return of demand appears to be as far off as ever and the market is going through a period of intense depression. Encouraged by a rising exchange, dealers are keeping entirely aloof, there being no enquiry whatever except for the small wants of the city. The new business done during the interval comprises a few forced sales, and prices realised cannot be accepted as a fair indication of the market, which may be called fully \$2 lower. The only redeeming feature of the fortnight has been the large clearances of previous purchases, which, together with heavy exports to Shanghai, have mainly contributed to relieve the market and hitherto have kept our stock within reasonable limit. We again close quiet and depressed.
Local Manufacture:—The demand for locally spun thread is also very slack, and although prices are maintained no business is reported.

Japanese Yarns have been dull of sales and the market appears slightly weaker.

Raw Cotton:—The market continues lifeless. Buyers of Indian descriptions have confined their purchases to choice parcels of superfine Bengals, and sales of 235 bales are reported at from \$24.40 to \$26. Stocks are running low and estimated at 900 bales, the recent importation of about 2,500 bales per ss. "Banca" being on local mill account. Demand for China Cotton continues, but supplies have not been large, and a small arrival of about 300 bales Ningpo has been readily picked up at from \$28½ to \$29, the market being bare of stock. Quotations are Indian \$22 to \$27 and China \$28½ to \$31.

Exchange on India, after the recent lull of the previous fortnight, has advanced gradually and closes steady at Rs. 140½ for T/T and Rs. 141, for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 91½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 9th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Market firm and active, sales aggregating 7350 bales, comprising 3042 bales No. 10s, 1000 bales No. 12s, 120 bales No. 14s, 200 bales No. 16s and 3,288 bales No. 20s, prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese:—Demand has somewhat fallen off, but clearances are moderate and prices steady. Sales amount to 2500 bales on the basis of Tls. 80½ to 84 for No. 12s, Tls. 81½ to 85½ for No. 14s, Tls. 83 to 89 for No. 16s and Tls. 90 to 94½ for No. 20s.

Local:—An improved demand has been experienced and sales of about 12,000 bales have been effected on the basis of Tls. 81½ to 82 for No. 10s, Tls. 81½ to 85½ for No. 12s, Tls. 84 to 88½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 87½ to 88 for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 22nd Oct.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.50 to 3.5
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yds.	0.55 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.50
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "), "	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.)	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.)	1.75 to 6.00
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Brocades—Dyed	0.13 to —
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	0.11 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.75
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 3.00
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.50
German	0.50 to 1.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.00 to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.90 to 9.25
Assorted	7.05 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches)	12.50 to 21.90
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.60
Fine quality	1.60 to 2.50

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.10 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.10 to —
Swedish Bar	7.00 to —
Small Round Rod	4.00 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.30 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.40 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.50 to —
Australian	7.75 to —

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.25 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	38.50 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	38.50 to —
Composition Nails.	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.	39.00 to —
Tin.	69.00 to —
Tin-Plates	7.10 to —
Steel ½ to 1 "	6.00 to —
SUNDRIES—	
Quicksilver	163.00 to —
Window Glass	4.50 to —

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. Noel Murray & Co. report for the week ending 15th October, as follows:—The community was upset by the issue of an Express last Sunday (11th inst.) stating that the Japanese had occupied Masampo and that War would be declared between Russia and Japan at noon on that day. Practically nothing has been heard since to confirm this, but evidently from information gathered from Chinese sources tension is high regarding this question, and it is felt that very little would be required to cause the commencement of hostilities. Meanwhile our market remains in practically the same condition as it has been for the past two or three weeks. The hoped-for demand after the Settling-Day has not yet set in, and consequently importers find very few enquiries for goods in stock, although there is doubtless a fair amount of re-selling going on amongst Natives, especially in American goods. A few indents continue to be booked for next Spring in well-known chops, in order to secure delivery, but the business is not at all general. We do not hear of much being done in Fancies; for one thing delivery cannot now be obtained for early Spring arrival, and it is only importers who have bought in anticipation of requirements who are able to meet what demand there is. Fast Black Italians with good Silk Finishes are receiving some attention, and any lots for near arrival are eagerly taken at very good prices, especially qualities costing about Tls. 7.00 per piece. Clearances of these goods and also Figured Cotton Lastings are fairly satisfactory. The auction of some bales 1,900 of American goods (Mill chops) went better than was generally expected would be the case, the average price realized being Tls. 3.89, which shows a drop of about 2½ per cent. on the prices obtained at the last auction, some three weeks ago. Similar cloths under importers own chops are selling privately at Tls. 3.75 to Tls. 3.77½, and a lower quality at Tls. 3.55. Native interest is easier, but it is still too high to admit of any general improvement in clearances which remain poor. Bar Silver shows a further advance, but the rates of Exchange offered by the Banks are some 7½ per cent. below its parity for cash, owing to the inability of the Banks to find cover, whilst the forward rates are very much lower and render business "to arrive" on a currency basis very risky. The Tientsin merchants are reported to have taken some goods from the Chinese here at prices very much below replacing costs, but Newchwang is too excited over political events to do anything to speak of. The River Port merchants are clearing their purchases fairly well, but are buying very little new cargo to replace. Meanwhile stocks here of most goods are gradually getting into a more healthy position, and there is no doubt that merchants and dealers are beginning to realize that of some goods that are being enquired for the available supply is running short. Cotton shows a slight advance, the latest quotation for Mid. American being 5.84d. Egyptian Cotton is quoted 8½s., which shows a drop of ½d. of a penny. The Liverpool Market is reported quiet but steady. The Manchester Market is steady, but for fairly prompt shipment prices are irregular. Piece Goods:—Business reported is of the most meagre description, and the only sales we have heard of are 8.4-lb. Red Joss Grey Shirtings at Tls. 2.70 and 8.4-lb. Red Pagoda and Joss Grey Shirtings at Tls. 2.85; while we hear that some indents have been placed for the above and heavier weights of well known chops for Spring arrival. Some fine White Shirtings have also been placed for arrival on a sterling basis. In American Goods the business has practically been confined to transactions among Natives and the only sale from first hands is Horse and Man Drills at Tls. 3.80. In Fancies some business has been done in Fast Black Italians from stock, and a few lines of Figured Italians have been placed for arrival. Prices at auctions for 8.4-lb. Grey Shirtings, 12 lb. Grey Shirtings, 64 reed White Shirtings and Woollens all show slight advances, although of the first named goods rather larger quantities were offered. Prices for the other goods slightly easier but else steady.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 23rd October.

Beans	\$3
Borax	\$16 @ 19
Camphor (China)	\$95
" (Formosa)	\$110 @ 120
Cassia (First quality)	\$25
" (Second ")	\$17
" Oil	\$175
Cloves	\$27½
Fennel Seed Oil	\$310
Galangal	\$2 @ 6
Garlic	\$—
Glue	\$28½
Grapes	\$21
Ivory	\$200 @ 650
Kismiss	\$19 @ 21
Olibanum	\$10 @ 26
Rosa Oil	\$80 @ 220
Saltpetre	\$10 @ 10
Sandal wood	\$18 @ 30
" Oil	\$20 @ 375
Senna Leaves	\$3 @ 7
Sugar Candy	\$11 @ 12½
Vermilion	\$87½
Wax	\$42 @ 48

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

FROM HONGKONG.

Per P. & O. steamer *Borneo*, sailed on 16th October. For London:—2,000 bales hemp, 5,815 boxes tea, 6 bales canes, 377 cases preserves, 82 cases chinaware, 52 rolls matting, 8 cases P. Effects, 9 cases blackwoodware, 7 cases cigars. For Glasgow:—12 cases woodware. For London:—optional Manchester, 100 bales waste silk. For Malta:—2 packages rattan chairs, 1 case curios.

Per steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on 20th October. For Marseilles:—150 bales raw silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 330 bales waste silk, 25 cases waste silk, 13 cases silks, 7 cases bristles, 9 cases preserves. For Lyons:—139 bales raw silk. For Milan:—40 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Seydlitz*, sailed on 11th October. For Colombo:—500 bags sugar, 100 bags beans. For Aden:—100 cases cassia. For Suez:—5 bales waste silk. For Naples:—160 chests tea, 100 half-chests tea, 50 boxes tea, 50 bales waste silk. For Genoa:—250 bales waste silk, 136 bales raw silk, 50 cases essential oil, 2 cases embroidery, 1 case curios. For Buenos Ayres:—90 packages tea, 60 cases palmleaf fans. For Antwerp:—42 half-chests tea, 20 cases cantharides, 9 cases chinaware, 5 cases blackwoodware. For Amsterdam:—607 cases preserves, 50 cases ginger, 30 cases preserves, 24 cases chinaware, 16 cases tea sticks, 14 cases canes, 12 cases ginger. For Amsterdam and Rotterdam:—325 cases ginger. For Rotterdam:—375 cases ginger, 9 cases chinaware. For Bremen:—244 half-chests tea, 50 boxes tea, 43 rolls mats, 10 boxes preserves, 3 cases sundries. For Bremen and Hamburg:—329 bales feathers, 25 cases preserves, 14 cases chinaware. For Hamburg:—871 chests tea, 154 bales feathers, 90 rolls matting, 50 boxes bristles, 40 cases curios, 31 packages canes, 28 cases ginger, 13 boxes bamboo-fans, 15 cases preserves, 12 cases feathers. For London:—430 rolls mats, 30 boxes essential oil. For Copenhagen:—250 boxes preserves, 200 boxes cassia.

HANKOW, 7th October.—The prices are quoted for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, best selected	Per picul Tls. 35.00
Do., seconds	" 30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 24.50
Do., do.	10/5 lbs. }
Do., do.	35/60 " }
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, average 2 lbs., 50 p. c. short, 30 p. c. med. and 20 p. c. long hair	63.50
Buffalo Horns, average 3lbs. each	11.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi	13.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	12.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.70
Jute	4.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	12.90
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and or Macheng	11.90
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	12.50
Animal Tallow	11.75
Gallnuts, usual shape	20.20
Do., Plum do.	22.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	20.00
Do., do. do. Wild Duck	25.00

MANILA.—The latest quotations by mail are:—

HEMP.	
Albay, current	\$19½
Leyte, do.	\$24½
Daet, do.	\$16½
Nal. Caceres (Catanduanes)	\$20
Sorsogon.....	\$24.00
SUGAR	
Hilo No. 1.....	\$5½
" " 2.....	\$5½
" " 3.....	\$4½
" Assorted.....	\$5
COPRA.	
Sun-dried	\$7½
Laguna	\$7
F. M. Manila.....	\$7½
RICE.	
Saigon Blanco	\$6.75
Rangoon.....	\$6.50
LEAF TOBACCO.	
Isabela, 1901 — 1st to 5th class	\$15 to \$12
Cagayan " " " " " "	\$11 " \$38
Isabela, 1902 " " " " " "	\$16 " \$36
Cagayan " " " " " "	\$10 " \$32
Barli 1st class. Few stock offered	\$13.50
" 2nd "	\$11.00
" 3rd "	\$9.50
Abra, Norte. No stocks.	
Union " "	

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd October, 1903.—Since the date of our last report the tendency of the market has continued towards weakness, and while we have no rise to report in any stock, several have further slightly declined.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been negotiated at \$63½ and close with sellers at that rate. The London rate, doubtless on account of the unsettled state of the London Stock Exchange, has declined to £63. Nationals continue in a small demand at \$28½.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Further sales of Unions have taken place at \$49½. China Traders and Cantons have been in offer resulting in a small business at quotations. North China's and Yangtzes continue quiet without any local business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have again found buyers at \$90; while Hongkongs remain neglected at quotation.

SHIPPING.—Hongkongs and Macaos have changed hands in fair quantities at \$31½ closing steady at that rate. Indos with sellers from the North have ruled weaker at \$91 and \$90 closing with sellers, and Douglasses have been placed at \$30 and close steady at that rate. Star Ferries continue on offer at quotations without business. Small Transports after fair sales at £1. have declined to 19s. at which rate the market closes weak. China Manilas rule quiet at \$18½.

SUGAR REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been on offer during the week at \$97½ without attracting buyers, and close quiet at that rate. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—We have no business to report under this heading.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$154 for cash and again at \$162 for March, the market closing steady. Hongkong Hotels have declined to \$147 without any business to report. Humphreys have found buyers at \$10.85 and later at \$10.75 closing with sellers at the latter rate. West Points have been done at \$52 and \$52½ closing with sellers at the latter rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued weak with sellers at \$202 while a sale is reported of a small lot at \$200. At time of closing small buyers at \$201 rule the market. Kowloon Wharfs have been placed at \$88 but shares are now obtainable at \$87½. Amoy Docks have changed hands at quotation. Farnhams after falling in Shanghai to \$107½ are now reported at \$117½.

COTTONS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands at \$22½. Old Electrics at \$12½ and China Providents at \$9.10. Dairy Farms are in demand at \$13½.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$632½, sellers) (L'don, £65)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28½, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$28½, buyers
Foun. Shares.....	£1	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$5½, sellers
Canton Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$9½, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$5, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$97½, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$250, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$13½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$22½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery.....	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas.....	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 25, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6½, sellers
ok. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$320, sellers
Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$147, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$87½, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$14½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$20½, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$175, ex div.
China Fire	\$60	\$90
China Traders.....	\$25	\$61½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320
North China.....	£25	Tls. 216, sellers
Union	\$100	\$492½, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$154, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10.75, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$45
West Point Building	\$50	\$52½, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$10
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$6.0, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50 cents,
Punjom	\$11	\$1.50,
Do. Preference.....	\$1	30 cents
Raubs	18 10	\$8, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$38, sales
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$58, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila.....	\$50	\$18½
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30, buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$31½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$81, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1 9s. sellers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	(\$20, sellers) (\$16, sellers)
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 117
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
United Abestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$200 sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 16th October.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report state:—Notwithstanding that the business days during the week have been broken into by the Interport Cricket Match, we have a good business to report in Stocks generally, but as a rule, at declining rates, especially so in Docks. At the time of closing this, the market is quiet, with, we think, a tendency towards low rates. Banks.—H. & S. Bank's. These have been quoted at \$630 ex. 73. The latest London quotation is £65 10s. The T. T. rate to-day is 2/7½. Marine Insurance.—China Traders have been placed at \$63 from Hongkong; Yangtzes at \$195. Fire Insurance.—Chinas have been

placed at \$89 ex. 72. Hongkongs at \$30. [Shipping.—Indos opened on the 9th with sales for December at Tls. 61; on the 10th October Sett. shares were placed at 59½; on the 12th sales for December at 61. On the 14th shares were procured from Hongkong for October Sett. at \$33; December shares at 61. On the 15th cash shares were placed at 59½ and for October delivery at 59½ and 60, and at 61 for December. The market in this stock has been quiet during the week. H. C. & M. Steamboats are wanted in the South at \$32, and Douglasses at \$30. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co.—Shares have been placed ordinary at Tls. 55, and preference at 50. Dock and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co.—There has been a very brisk market in this stock. On the 9th the market opened at 133½, 132 & 130 for cash, with sales for October Sett. at 133½ and 130, and for December at 134, 134, and 133½ January, and 133 March. On the 10th at 127½ cash and 129 November, 130 December and January; and 132 March. On the 12th cash at 127½, 126 and 125. For October Sett. 126 and 125, and for December 127½; 123 January; 130, 128, 127½ March. On the 13th shares for cash fetched 123½ with sales for October 125, 123, 122½. For December 125, March 126½. On the 14th at 122½ cash and October delivery; 120½ and 125 March. On the 15th cash 122 and 122½, and 120 October delivery, 123, 123½ and 120 December, and 125 March. H. and W. Docks are offering in the South at \$204. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—Business is reported at Tls. 225. Yangtzes Tls. 195. Sugars.—No business reported. In the South China Sugars are quoted nominal at \$97 and Luzons sales at \$11. Mining.—The only business reported is in Kaipings at Tls. 7.20 October delivery. Weihaiwei Golds at par for October. Lands.—Shanghai sales are reported at Tls. 105½, and Hongkongs at \$153. Humphreys at \$11. Industrial.—The only transaction in Cotton Stocks reported is International Cottons at Tls. 25, and Ewos at Tls. 32½. Hongkong Cottons are wanted in the South at \$14½. China Flours have been placed at 67½ c.n.i. Green Island Cements have been placed at \$23. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats.—A fair business has been done in these at very steady rates. The market opened on the 9th with sales for the Settlement at 277½ and 280 for December 290/292½ March. On the 10th October Settlement shares at 272½, December 282½ and 280. March 292½. On the 12th cash shares at 272½ and 270 October Settlement. On the 13th again at 270 October. On the 14th at 270, 267½ cash, 267½ October, 272½ November and 277½ December. On the 15th October Settlement shares were placed at 270, 267½, 268½. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 51. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies have been placed at Tls. 14. Weeks at 13 for old, and \$20 for new issue. Miscellaneous.—The only business reported in stocks under this heading is in Shanghai Mercury, placed at Tls. 55. Loans.—A transaction in Shanghai Lands 6 per cent. is reported at par.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 23rd October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	233½
Credits 4 months' sight	240
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	192
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank, on demand	141
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank, on demand	141
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	91½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	113½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.6
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	56.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—Business continues very dull, and only a few charters have been put through during the past fortnight. From Saigon, no demand. From Java to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul last and offering. From Hongay to this, \$1.10 per ton was paid for next month loading. From Newchwang to Canton, a fair demand, resulting in the fixture of several boats at 21 cents per picul. Japan coal freights are dull. From Moji to this, \$1.70 last and \$1.60 offering. The following are the settlements:—

Amigo—German steamer, 522 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20,000 piculs), 21 cents per picul.

Tungshing—British steamer, 1,184 tons, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 21 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 21 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 21 cents per picul.

Ellen Rickmers—German steamer, 993 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongay, \$2.20 per ton.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.10 per ton.

Clara Jessen—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.31 per ton.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.21 per ton.

Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, one port north coast Java to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul (dry sugar).

Triglav—Austrian steamer, 618 tons, Manila to Marseilles, \$1,000 in full.

Bygdø—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, monthly, three months, at \$1,500 per month (incl. Chief),

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Antenor*, *Pak Ling*, *Tantalus*, *Prometheus*, *Dardanus*.

FOR LONDON.—*Coromandel*, *Pak Ling*, *Antenor*, *Wakasa Maru*, *Hitachi Maru*, *Tantalus*, *Prometheus*.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Ningchow*, *Achilles*.

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Yarra*, *Pak Ling*, *Wakasa Maru*, *Ningchow*, *Ulysses*, *Prometheus*, *Dardanus*.

FOR BREMEN.—*Roon*.

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Aragonia*, *Nurnburg*, *Sazonia*, *Marburg*, *Suevia*.

FOR NEW YORK.—*Hermiston*, *Kurdistan*, *Seneca*.

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indrapura*.

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Oanfa*, *Iyo Maru*, *Shawmut*.

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India*, *Athenian*.

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Taiyuan*, *Empire*.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Kamsang*.

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Kinshu Maru*.

FOR SINGAPORE AND CALCUTTA.—*Freiburg*.

FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO AND BOMBAY.—*Java*.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

- 18, *Ariake Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 18, *Australian*, British str., from Kobe.
- 18, *Avoca*, British str., from Singapore.
- 18, *Breiz Huel*, French str., from Kelung.
- 18, *Brisgavia*, German str., from Shanghai.
- 18, *Priam*, British str., from Glasgow.
- 18, *Kohsichang*, German str., from Bangkok.
- 18, *Nordkyn*, Norwegian str., from Amoy.
- 18, *Prima*, Norwegian str., from Rajang.
- 18, *Rosetta Maru*, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 18, *Segovia*, German str., from Hamburg.
- 18, *Waihora*, British str., from Straits.
- 19, *Bedouin*, British str., from Mororan.
- 19, *Ernest Simons*, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
- 19, *Franz Ferdinand*, Austrian str., from Kobe.
- 19, *Kamsing*, British str., from Calcutta.
- 19, *Oscar II.*, Norw. str., from Kutch notzu.
- 19, *Pakhoi*, British str., from Chafoo.
- 19, *Polyphemus*, Dutch str., from Liverpool.
- 19, *Taro Maru*, Japanese str., from Sasa.
- 19, *Triumph*, German str., from Hoihow.
- 19, *Zafir*, British str., from Manila.
- 20, *Alacrité*, British des. ves., from Shanghai.
- 20, *Freiburg*, German str., from Tsingtau.
- 20, *Hangsaug*, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, *Hikosan Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 20, *Hipsang*, British str., from Wuhu.
- 20, *Hongkong Maru*, Jap. str., from S. F. cisco.
- 20, *Hopsing*, British str., from Java.
- 20, *Humber*, British storeship, from Shanghai.
- 20, *Iyo Maru*, Japanese str., from Shanghai.

- 20, *Taishan*, British str., from Samarang.
- 20, *Yarra*, French str., from Marseilles.
- 20, *Yuensang*, British str., from Manila.
- 21, *Antenor*, British str., from Liverpool.
- 21, *Athenian*, British str., from Vancouver.
- 21, *Daigi Maru*, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 21, *Hailoong*, British str., from Swatow.
- 21, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.
- 21, *Indrani*, British str., from Manila.
- 21, *Kawa hi Maru*, Jap. str., from London.
- 21, *Phranang*, German str., from Bangkok.
- 21, *Shantung*, German str., from Langkat.
- 21, *Shawmut*, Amr. str., from Tacoma.
- 21, *Thales*, British str., from Swatow.
- 21, *Undine*, Norwegian str., from Manila.
- 22, *Bengal*, British str., from Bombay.
- 22, *Chiyeu*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 22, *Glory*, British battleship, from Singapore.
- 22, *Kwangtah*, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 22, *Nanchang*, British str., from Canton.
- 22, *Schnyl Hill*, British str., from Moji.
- 22, *Taiyuan*, British str., from Japan.

October—

DEPARTURES.

- 18, *Elisa Rickmers*, German str., for Swatow.
- 18, *Mad. Rickmers*, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 18, *Maidzuru Maru*, Jap. str., for Anping.
- 18, *Sik*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, *Tyr*, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 19, *Anping Maru*, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
- 19, *Babelsberg*, German str., for Shanghai.
- 19, *Lowther Castle*, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 19, *Priam*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, *Ariake Maru*, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 20, *Brisgavia*, German str., for Hamburg.
- 20, *Ernest Simons*, French str., for Europe.
- 20, *Gaelic*, British str., for San Francisco.
- 20, *Haiching*, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 20, *Hongbee*, British str., for Amoy.
- 20, *Konn Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 20, *Lightning*, British str., for Calcutta.
- 20, *Machaw*, German str., for Bangkok.
- 20, *Nanchang*, British str., for Canton.
- 20, *Nippon*, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
- 20, *Pakhoi*, British str., for Canton.
- 20, *Polyphemus*, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 20, *Ricjan Maru*, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 20, *Rohulla Maru*, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 20, *Suisang*, British str., for Singapore.
- 20, *Tjiranas*, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 20, *Waihora*, British str., for Amoy.
- 21, *Australian*, British str., for Australia.
- 21, *Empress of China*, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 21, *Glenroy*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 21, *Hipsing*, British str., for Canton.
- 21, *Oscar II.*, Norw. str., for Kutch notzu.
- 21, *Salin Rickmers*, Brit. str., for Pa'embang.
- 21, *Sungkiang*, British str., for Manila.
- 21, *Triglav*, Norwegian str., for Manila.
- 21, *Triumph*, German str., for Hoihow.
- 21, *Yarra*, French str., for Shanghai.
- 22, *Antenor*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, *Avoca*, British str., for Amoy.
- 22, *Chiyeu*, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 22, *Clavering*, British str., for Moji.
- 22, *Devawongse*, German str., for Bangkok.
- 22, *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, *Kwongsang*, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, *Mathilde*, German str., for Hoihow.
- 22, *Nordkyn*, Norwegian str., for Manila.
- 22, *Shawmut*, Amr. str., for Manila.
- 22, *Segovia*, German str., for Yokohama.
- 22, *Tailee*, German str., for Swatow.
- 22, *Whampoa*, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Clarke, Dr. and Mrs. Salomon, Mrs. B. Arral, Mrs. Gerand and two children, Mrs. Remedies and three children, Mrs. and Miss Roth, Mrs. Marques and two children, Lieut. A. Delme Radoliff, Comdr. Raesens, Revs. H. Arvier and Noury, Messrs. Richard Alfred, A. du Petit Thouan, P. Dietrich, A. K. Rhoden, W. Caster, Kent, Buchanan, F. Nelson, W. Bixter, Rosalet, Teillac, F. Williams, and A. M. Wilson; for Saigon, Mr. Isler Romain; for Singapore, Mr. Carlo; for Colombo, Messrs. Antioff, U. Teerathidas, Djidoeff, and Sod off; for Port Said, Mr. A. Israël; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Besse Desmoulières and two children, Mrs. Rayp and three children, Mr. and Mrs. de Deyn and two children, Miss Ninde, Messrs. Louis Jourden, Abagaeon de Parfoura, Manse Prosper, F. de l'Escaille, H. Poiterin, M. Gensoul, C. Raymond, F. Le Neanne,

Fouque, Benseite, Gonmel Louis, Leglise, Bourdreaux, Lambert, Desjardins, Michelon, Bonge, Rouge, Labrone, Lenoble, Blondeau, Bonifay, and Dagorne.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Singapore, Miss Evacher; from Saigon, Revs. Delignon and Laurens, Messrs. Frevonx and Speidel; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Miss Bestard, Revs. Hosi, Maguinas, Mauri, Etori, Cheschi, and Nani, Messrs. Nicolaisen, Keioembach, Milhadi, Michel, and Georges and family; from Singapore, Messrs. Valeten and Macari; from Saigon, Capt. and Mrs. Bassand and three children, Messrs. Marmand, Le Coper, R. naud, and Gellen; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. G. Abigeois; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Em. Zapico; from Port Said, Mr. Gracciani; from Singapore, Capt. Eurtion and Col. Van der Villejoen.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mrs. Coldren, Mrs. R. Thornbule, Mrs. M. Gage, Mrs. Robbins and maid, Mrs. H. W. Warren and Miss T. Kimura, Misses S. H. Smith, Robbins, T. Robbins and Illil, Rev. M. J. Coldren, Dr. A. P. Preston, Messrs. E. Edwards, E. F. Robbins, P. J. Moore, W. D. Kraft, F. J. Mitchell, C. D. Johnston, Abe Crockett, S. Muraata, T. Kimura, Francisco Roque and C. Shidzuka.

Per *Bengal*, for Hongkong, from London, Naval Cadets Lambert, P. C. Boles, Norwood, Campbell, T. J. P. Vivian, H. C. Woolcombe, Boyce, J. F. Blackman, P. M. S. Henderson, G. S. Llewellyn, F. Ratsey, G. F. Kenyon, L. G. Gardner, A. Evans, G. N. Gilbertson, and Naval Instr. Weatherhead, Midshipmen L. C. Holland, D. N. Dibben, W. R. Ferguson, Engr. Capt. Hurst, Messrs. P. Alderton, Cunningham, R. E. Eddison, and Miss J. Eddison; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, Messrs. Hans Stanb and E. J. E. Bracken; from Bombay, Mr. S. Mawjee; from Penang, Mr. Koebelen; from Singapore, Major Bryan, Messrs. F. L. Ramplin, F. Tonn, P. Roza, and T. M. Perpetuo; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Grantham and two children, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Smedley, Dr. Hewitt, Messrs. A. Preedy, C. H. Conates, E. Mann, Buchanan, I. Morris, and Miss Hay; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. H. Stell, Messrs. L. B. Edmondson, D. Currie, F. Sellick, R. D. Mansfield, and A. H. F. Edwards; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. W. Moxon.

DEPARTED.

Per *Gaelic*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Spathe, Mrs. E. H. Crane, Messrs. Gus Duwall, H. Spathe, W. A. C. Platt, F. S. A. Bourne, F. H. Yang, H. K. Struves, and G. W. Kirkpatrick; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. M. G. Wendell, Master Wendell, Mrs. W. T. Litimer, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Bollinger, Messrs. W. J. Pointer, R. M. Cumberlege, and C. Cummings.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Saigon, Mrs. N. Passos, Mrs. M. Damiao and child, Messrs. Teillac, J. Watson, A. Frale, and V. Jorres; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Brady and two children, Messrs. G. F. Watton, E. Lander Watson, and W. Reinwald; for Bombay, Messrs. A. J. Raymond and C. Karej; for Marseilles, Count de Neverlee, Messrs. E. Heurtean, A. Lavabre, J. P. Ferreira, Grellet de la Deyte, and J. Abraham.

Per *Yarra*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Rangal Mrs. Pearson and child, Miss Pearson, Mrs. Bannet, Capt. Guerin and Jaquet, Messrs. S. Hashim, Y. Rapanakiz, M. Condos, G. H. Lawrence, and Miss Arnold.

Per *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Darnell, Mrs. Chas. Klinck, Miss Klinck, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Reid, Misses L. N. D. Treacher, A. and M. K. Brice, E. Moore, and Gresson, Messrs. H. J. M. Ellis, A. S. Anton, J. C. Grew, J. J. Patterson, W. J. Gresson, M. Stewart, J. Miley, N. Wissing, F. A. Morgan, E. H. Sharp, J. W. Graham, J. N. Anderson, S. Katon, and C. C. A. Kirke.

Per *Australian*, for Australia, &c., Mrs. M. Kerr and Miss Kerr, Mrs. A. B. Honeyfield, Lieut. Moura, Capt. Paiva, Misses Officer (2) and C. mith, Mr. and Miss J. Ballard, Messrs. C. M. Bromley, F. Fitter, D. Ross, and C. dos Santos.

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